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Japan

Government, U.S. 'Divided' on Medical Talks

OW0911060593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0442 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Washington, Nov. 8 KYODO—Japan proposed ways to improve access for foreign companies to bid for government contracts for medical equipment in talks in Washington on Monday [8 November]. U.S. officials said the Japanese proposal fell short of their expectations, however.

The two sides remained divided on the scope of contracts on which foreign firms could bid, officials said after the first day of a two-day meeting on procurement of medical equipment in Japan.

The talks are part of the so-called "framework" trade negotiations held between the two countries aimed at reducing Japan's massive trade surplus.

A senior U.S. Commerce Department official said the U.S. side was "encouraged" by the proposal the Japanese made Monday but cautioned that "we have a lot of work to do."

A Japanese official who spoke to reporters separately after the meeting said the Japanese side reiterated that Japan would not accept any numerical targets on foreign market share in government procurements.

U.S. officials, citing a higher foreign presence in the markets [of] other industrial nations, have urged Japan to use these import penetration levels as "objective criteria" to measure the openness of the Japanese market. Japanese officials, however, contended that such comparisons are irrelevant, saying figures compiled by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) have indicated that foreign firms' success in winning government contracts for medical equipment is considerably higher in Japan than in the United States.

U.S. officials, in an attempt to show that foreign companies are discriminated against in Japan, have produced figures that show U.S. firms command a higher market share than their Japanese competitors in all major world markets except in Japan.

Apart from market shares, the two sides also disagreed on the minimum amount of government contracts that must be open to international bidding. The U.S. has called for a lower threshold than GATT's public procurement bidding code, but the Japanese want to stick by the GATT standard. U.S. officials say the GATT threshold is inadequate to cover the vast ranges of government procurement that are typical in medical equipment.

The two sides will meet again Tuesday to review U.S. Government procurement practices. Trade negotiators from the two countries are also scheduled to hold separate talks on Japanese Government procurements for telecommunications equipment and foreign access to the insurance market in Japan.

The two countries, which concluded the framework negotiation accord in July, face a six-month deadline to work out a settlement on the insurance market and government procurement issues.

Slain Student's Parents Plan To Visit U.S.

OW0811094993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0912 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Nagoya, Nov. 8 KYODO—The parents of a 16-year-old boy shot to death in Louisiana last October said Monday [8 November] they will visit the United States this month to call on President Bill Clinton to initiate gun control legislation.

Masaichi Hattori, 46, and his wife, Mieko, 45, said they will leave for a six-day visit to the U.S. next Sunday, just more than a year after their son, Yoshiro, was shot dead after knocking on the wrong door while looking for a Halloween party in a Baton Rouge suburb. "We want to avoid a repeat of our son's tragedy," they said.

The couple have already gathered 1,700,000 signatures for a petition calling for stricter gun legislation. They hope to hand deliver the petition to Clinton and the U.S. Embassy says it is looking into the possibility of arranging a meeting between Clinton and the Hattoris.

"Last year's events and activities, such as our petition drive, have influenced public opinion. It would make me very happy to meet the U.S. President," said Mieko Hattori.

"When Clinton came to Japan for the summit (of the Group-of-Seven industrial nations this summer), he called us and I'd like to thank him for that," she added.

During their visit, they will take part in a November 16 meeting of the Coalition To Stop Gun Violence, a nationwide body of gun control organizations.

Diet Members Defend Rice Ban to Sutherland

OW0811234993 Tokyo KYODO in English 2330 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 8 KYODO—Japanese parliamentarians on Monday [8 November] told the chief of the world's trade watchdog that Japan cannot accept a proposal for replacing its rice import ban with tariffs. But Peter Sutherland, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), dismissed the Japanese appeal for making rice an exception to the tariffication scheme advanced by his predecessor Arthur Dunkel in a bid to conclude the Uruguay Round of global trade talks.

The four politicians from nonpartisan parties cited the need for Japan to be self-sufficient in the nation's staple grain to justify the rice import ban, according to the head of the mission, Kazuhiko Tsuji of the Social Democratic Party.

Sutherland replied that Japan could still have a 90 percent of domestic consumption self-sufficiency rate if it accepts the scheme, because of high tariffs it would be allowed to impose.

The Japanese legislators later visited the U.S. representative to GATT to relay Tokyo's position on rice.

They will call at the French Farm Ministry in Paris on Tuesday and the European Community headquarters in Brussels the following day before returning to Tokyo.

U.S., EC Urged To Help End Uruguay Round

OW0911095893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0944 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 9 KYODO—Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata has sent letters to the United States and the European Community (EC) urging successful conclusion of the stalled Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, a Foreign Ministry source said Tuesday [9 November]. Hata sent the letters to U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor and EC Trade Commissioner Leon Brittan, the source said.

Hata called for joint efforts by Japan, the U.S. and the EC to successfully conclude the stalemated seven-year-old trade talks, the source said. The deadline for the Uruguay Round is set for December 15.

Hata earlier said the leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum may make a joint appeal for quick conclusion of the round when they meet in Seattle. APEC ministers will meet from November 17 to 19 and government leaders will meet November 19 and 20.

Hosokawa Denounces EC for Uruguay Round Delay

OW0911131593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1253 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 9 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on Tuesday [9 November] blamed the European Community (EC) for delaying successful conclusion of the long-stalled Uruguay Round multilateral trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Hosokawa told reporters "the largest obstacle" for completion of the trade talks is the EC.

Hosokawa said the EC is responsible for having stagnated the trade talks because of a discord within the EC and with Washington over the Blair House accord reached last November on agricultural subsidies.

"Nevertheless, the EC has been shifting the blame for the delay of trade negotiations on Japan and the United States," Hosokawa said.

Hosokawa's remarks reflect the government's irritation that little progress has been made in the trade negotiations despite the nearing of the December 15 deadline, a government source said.

Hosokawa on Political Reform, GATT Talks

OW0911102293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1007 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 9 KYODO—Prime minister Morihiro Hosokawa renewed his resolve on Tuesday [9 November] to see through political reform by his stated deadline of the year-end.

Now that the ruling coalition and its main rival the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) have no differences on the basic course of political reform, "I am sure we can find a common ground through mutual concessions. We have to," the premier said at a news conference.

Hosokawa, who heads a seven-party coalition, also expressed his willingness to meet with LDP President Yohei Kono at an early date to iron out differences over their respective political reform packages.

The coalition must have reform bills cleared by the House of Representatives by around November 19 at the latest, before the premier's trip to Seattle for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum on November 19 and 20, to secure sufficient time for debate in the House of Councillors.

Hosokawa has staked his political future on the reform bills being passed by the Diet within this year. The bills would change the lower house election system and tighten control on political funding.

Political reform has topped the political agenda in Japan for the past five years following an array of scandals involving LDP politicians. Hosokawa's two immediate predecessors, Kiichi Miyazawa and Toshiki Kaifu, fell from power after failing to enact political reform bills.

Hosokawa made clear he has no plan to dissolve the lower house for general elections if he fails to see through reform by his own deadline.

Turning to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations sponsored by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the premier said Japan will closely watch the overall development of other countries' talks and walk in step with them. "It is hard to imagine Japan alone will cross a bridge when others do not do so," Hosokawa said.

With an effective virtual ban on rice imports, Tokyo has opposed a GATT proposal to change tariff barriers for agricultural imports into a set of customs exceptions.

The trade talks, now in their seventh year, must be completed by the December 15 deadline, and GATT Director General Peter Sutherland has given major trading nations until next Monday to come up with final offers on how to open up their markets.

Asked whether Japan could partially open its heavily protected rice market to foreign competition in return, as some reports say, for a six-year moratorium, Hosokawa gave an evasive answer. "These are multilateral negotiations," he said. "All I can say is we are negotiating within our basic policy."

Governors Propose Ties to Russian Far East

OW0911132993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1249 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Unazuki, Toyama Pref., Nov. 9 KYODO—Governors from 16 Japanese prefectures proposed to their Russian counterparts Tuesday [9 November] that they jointly set up an organization to expedite economic and cultural ties in regions encircling the Sea of Japan.

The proposal was put forward at the outset of a two-day conference involving the Japanese governors and the governors of five Russian provinces and provincial districts, as well as Japanese and Russian Foreign Ministry officials.

Toyama Gov. Yutaka Oki, delivering a key-note address to the conference, told the audience at a conference center here, "the Asian far east holds potential for various exchanges." Oki, representing the Japanese side, called for the establishment of an organization to study the feasibility of expanding economic and cultural exchanges, while maintaining regular high-level contacts between the two sides.

The Japanese governors attending represent 16 prefectures from Hokkaido to Niigata to Fukuoka facing the Sea of Japan, while the Russian side was represented by a 37-member delegation, including Sakhalin Gov. Yevgeny Krasnoyarov and Khabarovsk Gov. Viktor Ishayev.

Ishayev appealed to the Japanese side to expand investment and economic and technological exchanges to supplement the existing exchanges in such fields as medicine, education, language learning and personnel interchange.

Ishayev also asked Japan to establish a facility to make up for losses from Russo-Japanese joint ventures, saying such a facility is indispensable to alleviate the anxieties of Japanese industrialists considering investment in Russia.

Niigata Gov. Ikuo Hirayama urged the Russian governors to ask the government of President Boris Yeltsin to put a complete halt to dumpings of radioactive waste into the Sea of Japan. Although Moscow vowed to stop such dumping following an international outcry over the recent disposal of 900 tons of radioactive waste, Adm. Georgy Gurinov, the commander of the Russian Pacific Fleet, and other navy officers later said the fleet will continue dumping.

Hirayama, a former Bank of Japan executive, told the Russian governors, "both the Russian Far East region and Japan share the same interests, as both were victimized (by the radioactive dumpings)."

PRC To Return Remains of Soldier Slain in 1939

OW0811141293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1326 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 8 KYODO—China will soon return the remains of a Japanese soldier killed in a clash between Japanese and Soviet forces in 1939 near the village of Nomonhan on the border of northwest Manchuria and Outer Mongolia, Health and Welfare Ministry sources said Monday [8 November].

It is the first time that Beijing, usually reluctant to allow the recovery of Japanese war dead given the atrocities committed by the Japanese Imperial Army in China before and during World War II, has agreed to hand over the remains of a victim of the so-called Nomonhan incident, they said.

Two ministry officials will leave for Beijing on Wednesday and return with the soldier's remains and some of his personal belongings on Friday. A Chinese border guard discovered them in a sand dune near the Mongolian border in September 1989.

Items recovered besides the mortal remains were a fountain pen and a blank identification tag. Another identification tag found four kilometers from the dune reads "Jiro Kubota."

The pen is engraved with the word "Satoume" written in Katakana, the angular Japanese phonetic syllabary, and gives its owner's rank as "second artillery lieutenant" written in Chinese characters.

Following newspaper reports about the find, the ministry had sounded out the possibility of its return through diplomatic channels since December 1989. In May 1990 Beijing finally gave the green light.

Last August, a Japanese citizens' group managed to get Mongolia's approval for the return of five Japanese soldiers who fell near Hailar River in northeastern Mongolia. They were the first remains of victims of the Nomonhan incident to be handed over to Japan.

The incident started on May 12, 1939, when Soviet troops came to the aid of Mongolia after a border clash between the Japanese Field Army stationed in Manchuria, then the puppet state of Manchukuo, and Mongolian troops.

With both sides mobilizing aircraft and armored units, the clash developed into a full-scale border war that claimed the lives of about 8,000 Japanese soldiers until an armistice was signed in September.

Only about 4,500 bodies were recovered and buried, while the remaining 3,500 Japanese war dead were left on the battlefield.

Peacekeepers Plan To Extend Mozambique Stay

OW0811130693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1220 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 8 KYODO—The government on Friday [12 November] will formally approve extending the stay of Japanese peacekeepers in Mozambique until next July, officials said Monday.

Six of the seven ruling coalition parties Monday approved the plan to extend the stay of the 53-member Self-Defense Forces (SDF) contingent for nine months beyond the originally scheduled expiration of their duties October 31, the officials said. The government will decide on the plan at Friday's cabinet meeting, they said.

The United Nations Security Council recently decided to prolong the peacekeeping mission of the 6,500-strong UN operation in Mozambique until next April.

Japan will keep the SDF unit there three months longer than the planned UN withdrawal date as the contingent could be delayed because it is in charge of transportation, they said.

The government will also approve the dispatch of two SDF C-130 transport aircraft to the Southeast African country, the officials said.

Japan sent the 53 SDF personnel to Mozambique in May to help restore peace under the UN initiative. Mozambique's civil war, which erupted in 1975, killed up to one million people, created another one million refugees and destroyed the nation's economy.

Government Vows To Recycle Nuclear Fuel

OW0911015493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0103 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 9 KYODO—Japan vowed Tuesday [9 November] to continue its development of nuclear fuel recycling despite a global oversupply of plutonium, saying the country has a responsibility to the rest of the world to do so.

In an annual report on atomic energy released Tuesday, the Atomic Energy Commission said some countries have "slowed down" their nuclear fuel recycling activities due to an "easing world supply-demand of uranium" and the prospect of more plutonium from dismantled nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union. But the report said Japan, together with France, is opting to continue with the development of reprocessing technology.

Shinichiro Izumi of the Science and Technology Agency said recycling is "an important element" in Japan's long-term plans for the nuclear power industry.

The report said nuclear fuel recycling is "indispensable to mankind in promoting the use of nuclear energy, because it will substantially prolong the life of uranium resources. From this standpoint, establishing nuclear fuel recycling through technology development can be regarded as a responsibility of Japan, which is advanced in nuclear technology, but has scarce energy resources and uses a lot of them," according to the white paper.

"This is Japan's international contribution to the future age," it said.

The report said that at the end of June 1993, Japan had about 1.6 tons of raw plutonium stored domestically, of which about 1.1 tons came by ship from France in January. The plutonium is for use mainly in the prototype fast breeder reactor Monju on the Sea of Japan coast in Tsuruga, Fukui Prefecture.

Izumi, director of the Office of Atomic Energy Policy Research at the Atomic Energy Bureau of the Science and Technology Agency, said the agency's figure of 4.5 tons supplied to the Diet in response to a query from a House of Representatives member in October was the total of plutonium stored domestically and overseas. "Of course, spent fuel in Japan at present has some plutonium [as received] and it is kept in a pool at the site of the actual power plants so if you add all this then the figure can become larger," Izumi said in a briefing to reporters.

Izumi said that until the year 2000 when a reprocessing facility is expected to come on line at Rokkasho in Aomori Prefecture, Japan will experience a shortage of plutonium.

The white paper said nuclear power stations now provide 28.2 percent of Japan's total electricity supply.

It also listed suspicion over Iraq's and North Korea's possible development of nuclear weapons, and Ukraine's possession of nuclear weapons as possible "negative influences on nations, including Japan, which are promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy while making serious efforts to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons. We are very concerned about these cases," the paper said.

Izumi said there were no major additions made to this year's white paper following the advent of the new administration under Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa in August. In a foreword to the white paper, Science and Technology Agency Director General Satsuki Eda said the new administration has agreed "in principle" to comply with the policies of the previous government on all important matters.

Eda said Japan will continue to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy under strict safety regulations.

Technical Cooperation Pact Signed With Yemen

OW0911100293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0939 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 9 KYODO—Japan and Yemen signed a treaty on technical cooperation Tuesday, the Foreign Ministry said. Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata and Yemen's Minister of Planning and Development 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ali al-Iryani signed the pact at the Foreign Ministry.

Japan agreed to accept trainees from Yemen and send Japanese experts and machinery to Yemen, it said.

Yemen will offer necessary privileges and exemption to Japanese experts, members of Japanese missions and resident officers of the Japan International Cooperation Agency. It will also exempt from custom duties machinery provided by the Japanese Government, it said.

The agreement is initially valid for one year and will automatically be renewed for another year unless either government notifies the other of its termination, the ministry said.

As of end March, Japan had accepted 196 trainees from Yemen and sent 115 experts of its own. It also did seven development studies, the ministry said.

Dietmen on Regrouping of Political Parties

OW0911140193

[Editorial Report] Tokyo Asahi Television Network in Japanese on 31 October, as part of its regular 100-minute "Sunday Project" news magazine program beginning at 0100 GMT, carries a 21-minute debate participated in by Toshio Yamaguchi, an independent member of the House of Representatives, Kozo Watanabe, deputy secretary general of Shinseito, and political commentator Minoru Morita. The program moderator is freelance commentator Soichiro Tawara.

At 0154 GMT, moderator Tawara begins discussion on regrouping of political parties, and says: "Political reform has entered the final round. Although it is in the final round, there are so many different stands within the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] as well as the non-LDP forces." He notes political groups within the ruling and opposition camps range from reformists to conservatives.

Tawara notes that while there are so many political groups, "the group which will most likely be the central force is the Sogo Keizai Seisaku Kenkyukai (General Economic Policy Study Group) led by these gentlemen here—Mr. Yamaguchi and Mr. Watanabe." Tawara recalls that former Deputy Prime Minister Michio Watanabe was originally supposed to head the group, and asks Yamaguchi what happened.

Yamaguchi claims the idea behind Kenkyukai was to form a supra-partisan forum for discussions on economic policies, enlisting as the driving force Michio Watanabe and Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party] General Secretary Ichiro Ozawa. Yamaguchi says Michio Watanabe and Ichiro Ozawa agreed to join the forum, but adds that when he approached Koichi Kato and Taku Yamazaki of the LDP about this, they reacted sharply, saying he was trying to take Michio Watanabe out of the LDP in order to "initiate the resplitting of the LDP."

Kozo Watanabe also insists Kenkyukai is meant to be a forum for suprapartisan discussions on ways to tide over the existing difficult economic conditions.

Dietman Yamaguchi notes members of Komeito, the Social Democratic Party of Japan (SDPJ), and the Japan New Party are participating in the group, and adds that the group, which started with 159 Diet members, has grown to a body of nearly 200 or about one-third of the total Diet members.

Commentator Tawara comments: "These people claim they want to deal with economic issues seriously through the forum. But the harder Mr. Yamaguchi insists that this is the intended reason, the more I come to think there is more to it than just that."

At 0156 GMT, Tawara asks commentator Morita for his view.

Morita says: "It is a fact that the group is having a great impact. The LDP's people are those who assembled in order to share and maintain government power. But now they have lost government power, there is no base in the LDP for so many people to assemble in unity. As such, the LDP is now trying all it can to find a new order—or should I call it a new identity or axis—for itself."

He adds: "The LDP leadership is now desperate to maintain unity and to prevent further collapse but there is a possibility that two forces will leave the party eventually. One is the group of younger people who are afraid they might not be assigned constituencies in case political reform adopts a single-district system. They have also so far supported reform, so they want to maintain that position too. There is a move among these people to get out of the party before the election system reform becomes a reality or before the next general election is conducted.

"Meanwhile, there is another group of people. In the party presidential election, the LDP chose Mr. Yohei Kono as its president. This means the party rejected Mr. Michio Watanabe—no doubt a man of caliber who would have been named prime minister if the LDP government continued. Now, how to deal with the views and the power of Mr. Watanabe and his group is looming as a great problem. Everybody knows about the possibility of these two groups bolting out of the LDP." He says that is why some people in the LDP reacted so sharply when Mr. Yamaguchi asked Mr. Watanabe to head Kenkyukai.

Next, political commentator Morita says that, while Mr. Yamaguchi tries to tackle economic issues through Kenkyukai, he also aims at regrouping the political world, or splitting the LDP.

At 0205 GMT—following a two-minute commercial break—Tawara asks whether Mr. Yamaguchi is trying to reorganize the political world. Yamaguchi replies: "All actions in the political world lead to regrouping of political parties." He adds: "I think 1995 will be the turning point in moves toward reorganizing the political world. The 1995 structure, which will replace the so-called 1955 structure (the start of Japan's political system based on two major parties, virtually the start of the LDP's monopoly rule), will be established. The key men—or those who will take the initiative in moves toward the 1995 structure—are not Ichiro Ozawa, Michio Watanabe, Kozo Watanabe nor myself, but Kunio Hatoyama (an independent member of the House of Representatives who used to be a member of the LDP) and Hirotaka Akamatsu (former SDPJ secretary general). Akamatsu, the Gorbachev of the SDPJ who confused the party, is a reformist." Yamaguchi says Hajime Funada (of Shinseito) is also one of the key men. He adds that the three Diet men have already taken action toward regrouping political parties.

Tawara says: "I heard that young key men will form a group to seek reorganization of the political world in November." Yamaguchi replies: "We have already formed a group to promote the 1995 reorganization of the political world (1995 seikaisaihen susumeru kai) with Mr. Hatoyama and other Diet men." Yamaguchi states that he intends to entrust the group to young Diet men, including Hatoyama, Akamatsu and Funada; and that he hopes they will take the initiative in reorganizing the political world. He says: "Preparations are being made unofficially to start the group as early as 10 November."

Tawara then asks: "Mr. Watanabe, do you think the political reform bills will pass the Diet? The bills are expected to serve as an impetus for the reorganization of the political world." Watanabe says the bills are sure to pass the Diet. Morita says if Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa demonstrates his leadership the bills will pass the Diet within this year. He adds that after the bills are approved, politicians will begin to move toward regrouping political parties. The debate ends at 0217 GMT.

Ozawa Reiterates Money From Kajima 'Legal'

OW0811093593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0844 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 8 KYODO—A key figure in the ruling coalition of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Monday [8 November] he accepted 5 million yen from scandal-plagued Kajima Corp. last December as a legal political donation.

He denied allegations he regularly received illegal cash from the major general contractor over the past few years. "It is a fact that several of my political organizations received money from Kajima Corp. but those organizations issued receipts for all the money and it is clear how it was used," Ichiro Ozawa, a leader of Shinseito, said at a news conference.

"Therefore, I believe the money was accepted in accordance with the law," said Ozawa in announcing the results of his office's probe of the Kajima funds.

Ozawa said Friday he accepted the money from Kajima as a political donation But he promised to examine and make public details of the money.

He is regarded as a mastermind of the formation of the seven-party coalition government that deprived the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) of its hold on power in August.

A news report said Friday Shinji Kiyoyama, a senior vice president of Kajima who is under arrest on suspicion of bribing ex-Ibaraki Governor Fujio Takeuchi, admitted to prosecutors that Kajima had given Ozawa donations of 5 million yen twice a year—in midsummer and at the year-end—for two or three years.

The political funds control law sets a ceiling of 1.5 million yen a year for donations a politician can receive from any single individual or corporation.

Ozawa declined to specify through which of his political organizations he accepted the donation from Kajima, saying he has no legal obligations to do so.

"I think it is sufficient to say in a public place like this that I received the donation within the law," he said. "I am not telling a lie here."

He said he never received political donations from those who he found intent on gaining some special favors in return but also noted he could not read Kiyoyama's mind on whether something was expected in return for the donation. He also denied acceptance of personal contributions from Kiyoyama, apart from political donations from Kajima.

Asked if he plans to return the donation to Kajima now that the general contractor is embroiled in a payoff scandal, Ozawa replied he has no such plan because when he accepted the money, the company was willing to assist his political activities.

Ozawa, a former LDP secretary general, and his followers bolted the LDP in a mass defection and formed a breakaway party of Shinseito in June. Shinseito is the second largest force within the governing coalition.

He was instrumental in inaugurating the coalition government after the LDP's failure to secure a majority in the powerful House of Representatives in the July general election.

Farm Minister Urges No Change in Rice Prices

OW0811025793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0142 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 8 KYODO—Farm Minister Eijiro Hata urged an advisory panel on Monday [8 November] to recommend leaving unchanged the prices at which the government will sell rice to consumers this year, officials said Monday. If the panel adopts the suggestion, it will be the second straight year for rice prices to stay unchanged, despite a severe shortage of rice this year as a result of the exceptionally rainy and cool summer, they said.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's cabinet wants to set the rice prices at same level last year, taking into consideration the importance of a stable supply of the staple food to consumers, the officials said.

The Rice Price Council was also asked to recommend that the government reduce wholesale wheat prices because of windfall profits of some 9 billion yen, equivalent to about 3 percent of average annual domestic wheat sales, from less expensive imported wheat, the officials said. The wheat price cut would represent the first in two years.

The panel is to submit its recommendations to the farm minister Tuesday.

The country's rice crop index for this year plunged to a postwar record low of 75 against a normal year of 100, which translates into a shortage of more than 2 million tons in the overall domestic demand of 10 million tons.

The cabinet has already ordered the import of 200,000 tons of rice for making processed foods from Thailand, the United States, Taiwan and China, and plans to start importing more in spring to make up the shortfall. The advisory panel is to be asked to recommend prices at which the imported rice—bought at world market prices far below those of Japan—will be sold to consumers next year, according to the officials.

Panel Recommends No Change in Rice Price

OW0911083493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0743 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 9 KYODO—The Rice Price Council on Tuesday [9 November] recommended that the government's retail price for rice remain unchanged from last year, while lowering wheat prices by 10.4 percent. The recommendations are in line with a request from Farm Minister Eijiro Hato.

The drop in the price of wheat reflects the 9 billion yen windfall profits the government expects to gain in wheat imports thanks to a stronger yen in the foreign exchange, Farm Ministry officials said. The new prices will be introduced to the market on December 20.

It is the second consecutive year for rice prices to remain unchanged, and the first decline in wheat prices in two years.

There have been calls for government retail rice prices to be raised, because the price of free market rice—rice not directly distributed by the government but through government-approved channels—has been pegged at a maximum 7 percent higher than the standard price over the past three years.

A shortage of more than 2 million tons is expected in the domestic rice consumption of about 10 million tons. However, the council supported Farm Minister Hata's policy of maintaining stability in the government's rice distribution.

The officials said the council also discussed the market prices of rice to be imported in an emergency step to make up for the shortage. The prices will be decided in another meeting early next year.

Business Leaders Unhappy With Rice Report

OW0811122093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1151 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 8 KYODO—Business leaders Monday [8 November] expressed dissatisfaction with an advisory panel's interim report on liberalization of rice imports.

Isao Nakauchi, chairman of the Japan Chain Stores Association, said it is hard to understand why the report submitted by the Advisory Group for Economic Restructuring earlier in the day did not include deregulation on rice sales in a list of items to be abolished. The report did not mention directly whether Japan should lift its ban on rice imports.

Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers Associations (Nikkeiren), noted the panel did not call on the government to accept the proposed conversion of the rice import ban to tariffs. Rice has become a "symbolic issue" that shows whether or not Japan is making earnest efforts to open its markets to imports and deregulate government restrictions, Nagano said.

The business leader said he hopes the advisory group will come up with a more clear-cut recommendation in its final report to be submitted to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on December 16.

Panel Urges 'Sweeping Deregulation' of Controls

OW0811025893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0136 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 8 KYODO—An advisory panel to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on Monday [8

November] proposed sweeping deregulation of government controls, saying such regulations now run counter to economic reform. In an interim report presented to Hosokawa, the advisory group for economic restructuring said that government regulations "should be reviewed drastically, inclusive of abolition" so as to build "a free economy and society based on the principles of self-responsibility and market economy."

The deregulation should provide new business opportunities, create jobs, give consumers more choice in goods and services and help narrow price differentials between goods sold in Japan and Foreign countries, the report said.

"Official regulations have contributed to industrial development and stabilization of the people's living to date, but now they increasingly serve to intensify the rigidity of the economy and society and hinder socioeconomic reform," it said.

The report said economic activity should, in principle, be free of any government regulation, pointing out that there should be "no sanctuaries" in reviewing government control over business. But it did not mention whether Japan should lift a ban which keeps its rice market closed to imports, and endorsed exceptional treatment for such sectors as utilities, oil and international airfares "under the principles of fairness, simplicity and transparency."

The report recommended deregulation of the most tightly regulated areas such as the finance, securities and insurance markets. "Transparency in the financial system and financial markets is needed from an international viewpoint as well," the report said.

As for deregulation of housing and real estate markets, the report suggested regulations on land utilization and transactions be simplified, but did not refer to other specific measures to prevent land prices from soaring again.

The advisory panel, set up in mid-September, is headed by Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren). The advisory panel will issue a final report in December.

Other key proposals in the report:

—The anti-monopoly law should be more strictly enforced.

—The distribution system that requires retailers to sell certain products at prices set by their manufacturers and cartels exempted from the anti-monopoly law under separate laws should be scrapped in principle within five years.

—The process of introducing legislation on product liability and other consumer-protection measures should be sped up.

—The law governing administrative procedures should be enforced properly so the government will not impose regulations not mentioned under laws such as administrative guidances.

—Laws and regulations under the jurisdiction of more than one ministry should be simplified.

—The government must encourage local governments to follow the central government in deregulation.

—The government should set up a powerful task force within the cabinet to hammer out details of deregulation and draft a five-year action program in fiscal 1994.

—The government should establish a powerful third-party organization that monitors progress in deregulation and makes proposals on deregulation.

—The government should strengthen the function of the office of trade and investment ombudsman to promote government deregulation.

—The government should map out a white paper on deregulation.

Hosokawa Discusses Deregulation, Council Report

OW0911073293 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0304 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Announcer-read report over video; from the "NHK News" program]

[Text] In today's cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa referred to an interim report on deregulation submitted yesterday by the Economic Reform Research Council, and asked cabinet members to work out concrete deregulation measures for some of the items which the report indicated could be deregulated before the end of the year.

Hosokawa said the government would actively promote deregulation based on the report. He also said immediate action should be taken to promote deregulation and asked cabinet members to work out concrete deregulation measures for those items which could be deregulated within the year.

Also, in talks with cabinet members following the meeting, Hosokawa said GATT members might postpone by a few days submissions to GATT on their plans to lower import barriers, plans which would show their tariff rates. The deadline for submitting the plans is 15 November. Hosokawa said the delay was caused by the lack of clear indications about how talks between the United States and the European Community would develop.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura said that the plan to conclude the Uruguay Round of talks before the end of this year was confirmed at the Tokyo summit and that this had not changed. He added that he thought the final stage of the negotiations was close.

In related developments, Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, at a news conference after the cabinet meeting, said that if GATT members failed to conclude the

Uruguay Round of talks by the end of the year, they would slander each other and take action against each other, all of which could leave the world economy in chaos. He stressed the importance of GATT members' reaching agreement in the negotiations before the end of the year.

Public Works Panel Agrees To Set Priorities

OW0911093193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0825 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 9 KYODO—A government advisory panel agreed Tuesday [9 November] to recommend listing public works projects on a priority basis to reflect ongoing social changes, a Finance Ministry official said. The agreement came after a public works study group under the Fiscal System Council, an advisory body to the finance minister, conducted a hearing with three cities and a village.

The official told reporters that panel members acknowledged that priority lists are necessary and that they should be used to help form budgets for ministries and agencies.

The three mayors presented their requests in reviewing projects and pointed out problems, he said. He declined to disclose details.

As for unnecessary projects forced by national ministries and agencies for the sake of spending budgeted funds, the official mentioned that the mayors suggested that projects be linked to living conditions in respective regions.

While expressing strong criticism of "vertically divided" national administration, they also wanted the government to focus on key transportation infrastructure led by highways, he said.

The group will issue an interim report after holding its fourth meeting next week, and the Finance Ministry will refer to it when forming the draft budget plan for fiscal 1994 in late December.

In previous sessions, panelists were critical of the intransigence of officials of public-works related ministries and agencies who, speaking at hearings, showed reluctance in changing the rigid outlays despite Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's policy for "flexible" budgets.

Steel Industry Urges Steps To Overcome Slump

OW0811034693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0319 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 8 KYODO—The steel industry called Monday [8 November] for early implementation of public works projects, income tax cuts and housing starts to help pull it out of economic slump. Officials said that the chairman of the Japan Iron and Steel Federation made the request during a morning gathering with International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kumagai.

Hiroshi Saito urged the government to take further economic pump-priming measures, saying, "Crude steel production this fiscal year is likely to continue falling short of the 100 million ton level as it did last year. The outlook is the same for next year if the economic situation remains as it is."

Steelmakers have taken steps to streamline operations but now need further input from the government, Saito was quoted as saying.

Federation executives asked Kumagai to review the government's 10-year plan to spend 430 trillion yen on public works projects.

Steelmakers also called for a review of land taxation. They proposed abolishing taxes on land prices and reducing real estate tax.

Kumagai replied that the 430 trillion yen plan and the taxation system, including deregulation on land use, should be studied in future, they said.

"It is important to expand domestic investment from a middle- and long-term prospective, not only to take short-term pump-priming measures," Kumagai was quoted as saying.

MITI Panels Review Big Retail Store Law

OW0811152293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1454 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 8 KYODO—Two industry ministry advisory panels on Monday [8 November] began a review of the revised large-scale retail stores law that went into effect in late January last year, in accordance with suggestions made by the advisory group for economic restructuring, ministry officials said.

The distribution panel of the Industrial Structure Council and the Distribution Subcommittee of the Small and Medium Enterprise Policy Making Council, which both advise the minister of international trade and industry, will check the current enforcement of the law by holding joint meetings.

The law shortened the period required for large stores to obtain official permission to open an outlet with a floor area of more than 500 square meters to a maximum of one year. The panels will also check the restrictions on the floor space usable for commodity sales on the part of department stores, supermarket stores and other large-scale retail stores, the number of days when such stores may open for business, their closing time and the number of holidays they may take.

The panels have been asked to report the results of the review by the end of next January. The revised law calls for a review of the statute two years after enforcement.

At Monday's joint meeting of the two panels, small business representatives raised objections to an easing of the existing restrictions at a time when they are suffering from a prolonged business slump.

But big retailer representatives called for eased restrictions on the number of hours allowed for big stores to stay open. They said such a relaxation would serve consumers' interests.

Industries See Economic Recovery After April

OW0811130393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1008 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 8 KYODO—Major Japanese industries believe the domestic economy will start recovering in or after the April-June period of 1994, the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said Monday [8 November]. The forecast was made when representatives from 10 industrial sectors, such as steel and electrical machinery, held informal talks with EPA officials in late October on the current state of and prospects for economic activity.

EPA officials quoted most industry representatives as expressing the view that business sentiment is currently worse than six months earlier. This is due in part to an unusually cool and wet summer, they added.

To cope with the situation, the majority of the companies plan to limit employment of new graduates next spring and transfer some of their employees to subsidiaries and affiliates, the officials said.

Many businesses remain prudent about firing employees, however, they said.

Representatives from the steel, electrical machinery and machine tool industries said they would find it hard to maintain their present work force if the economy deteriorates further, according to the EPA officials.

Most industry officials forecast capital investment for the current fiscal year ending next March 31 will fall below the previous year and stay low in the next fiscal year, they said.

The bleak prospect stems largely from poorer earnings due to a decline in received orders and shipments, the officials said.

On inventory adjustment, that of some electrical appliances has already run its course.

Officials in steel and small-size machine tool industries believe their inventory adjustment will drag on until the April-June period next year, the EPA officials said.

Fujii Expresses Concern Over 'Stagnant' Economy

OW0911034393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0156 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 9 KYODO—Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii on Tuesday [9 November] expressed anew his concern about the protracted economic doldrums in Japan.

The Japanese economy remains stagnant although it is unlikely to plunge into a double-dip recession, Fujii told a regular press conference. But the government has no immediate plans for further pump-priming measures, and will continue to monitor the economic effects of a series of stimulus packages introduced in the recent past, he said.

Fujii was commenting on the latest monthly economic report by the Economic Planning Agency, which abandoned the optimistic language of recovery used in previous reports.

Fujii said it will be difficult for the government to compile a second supplementary budget for fiscal 1993 before Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa meets U.S. President Bill Clinton on November 20 in the United States. Hosokawa will leave for the U.S. on November 19 to attend an informal summit of leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Seattle.

Economic Report Offers 'Gloomy' Assessment

OW0911030693 Tokyo KYODO in English 2353 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 9 KYODO—The government released a gloomy monthly economic report Tuesday [9 November] that abandoned the optimistic language of recovery in previous reviews, with an official saying the economy is in the same condition as in early spring. The Economic Planning Agency (EPA) official said the yen's dramatic strengthening and the summer's unusually harsh weather nipped a recovery in the bud.

The EPA report approved at a meeting of cabinet ministers in the morning described the economy as "sluggish in general," compared with last month's account of it being in a "standstill but poised for a recovery."

The official defended the agency's announcement in March that the economic slowdown had bottomed out, saying the "decision was correct at that time." But "some elements, like sentiment among businessmen, have gotten even worse than then," he said.

The official said he sees no sign at the moment that the situation will begin to improve immediately.

The EPA began using the term "recovery" in its monthly reports in one way or another from May. But the word disappeared this month.

The official declined to say the economy is experiencing a "double-dip" recession, saying it is merely a "fluctuation" being observed at the bottom stage.

The report said consumption is sluggish and corporate plant and equipment spending continues to decline. The two areas combined are the powerhouse of economic output.

Liquidation of inventories has come to a standstill, the report said, unlike previous reviews' comments of "there has been some progress."

Exports are coming down, the EPA official said, but he was not sure whether it is directly because of the yen's appreciation yet. However, he said the exchange rate factor is probably behind an increase in imports.

The report also said labor demand is further declining.

Even public works investment, beefed up by government pump-priming packages, was only described as "solid...in general," in reflection of setbacks in orders in September on a yearly comparison.

One of the few encouraging signs was the high level of housing construction, according to the report.

North Korea

Foreign Ministry on Clinton's 7 Nov Remarks

SK0911104993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 9 (KCNA)—A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today answered a KCNA question on the foreign press reports that U.S. President Bill Clinton, in his recent interview granted to the U.S. National Broadcasting Corporation Television, made remarks seriously getting on our nerves, blaring that "North Korea cannot be allowed to develop nuclear bombs" and "if North Korea launches an attack on South Korea, it will be tantamount to an attack on the United States," though he said the United States "will make efforts to pursue rather peace than a total confrontation "with the DPRK". [quotation marks as received]

The spokesman said:

At this moment when we have declared time and again that we have neither the intention nor the need to develop nuclear weapons and the DPRK and the United States have promised to resolve the nuclear problem through negotiation, the U.S. President took issue with the fictitious "problem of development of nuclear bombs" by us. If it is true, it cannot be construed otherwise than an attempt to put pressure upon us.

This fact makes us doubt the stance of negotiation of the United States—whether it really wants to solve the problem through dialogue, or not.

No pressure and strong arm would work with us.

It is because the United States is still pursuing its hostile policy aimed at stifling our system that the nuclear problem has not been solved fairly up until now.

We cannot but take a serious note of the fact that the U.S. President made bellicose remarks against us at the present moment when the world recognizes that we have no intention to "invade the South" and the North and the South have committed themselves to nonaggression.

Moreover, keeping mum about the recent provocative utterances of the South Korean "defence minister", Clinton took issue with us, presupposing in a far-fetched manner the "Southward invasion" which we have never had thought about. So, we cannot help paying due attention to the possible connection of his utterances with the South Korean authorities' racket for Northward invasion.

We who regard sovereignty as our life and soul are practically prepared to strongly counter any act of aggression.

The United States must renounce its anachronistic one-sided policy of the cold war era toward Korea, though belatedly.

Only that accords with the positive development of the situation on the Korean peninsula.

U.S., ROK Conduct 'Coordinated Strike Exercise'

SK0711100293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0806 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 7 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists on November 4 and 5 brought to the sky above South Korea overseas-based A-6s, FA-18s and other warplanes of the Marines and staged a provocative aerial coordinated strike exercise against the North together with the puppets, according to military sources.

The frantic war exercise was held with the sky above Yongwol, Chungju and Yoju of South Korea as an operational theatre according to a war scenario of the command of the U.S. Navy in the Pacific. It involved fighter-bombers of various types, assault planes, pursuit-assault planes, observation planes and reconnaissance planes of the U.S. Air Force present in South Korea and the puppet air force, more than 600 in all.

In another development, a Guam-based KC-135 tanker plane that had been deployed in a U.S. Air Force base in South Korea refuelled dozens of fighter-bombers on November 4, making flights for long hours from the sky above the sea off Kunsan to the sky above the Kyongnyolbi Islands.

South Berated Over 'Chemical Warfare Exercises'

SK0811045493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0411 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 8 (KCNA)—The South Korean ruling quarters who had systematically staged chemical warfare exercises in alliance with outside forces declared recently that they had decided to possess chemical weapons and submit this plan to the "National Assembly" next year for its "endorsement".

This is a declaration that they will push ahead legally and openly with the preparation for chemical warfare which had been promoted secretly until now. And this shows how far they have gone in their frenzied drive for a war against the North, says NODONG SINMUN Sunday.

It continues:

The decision to possess chemical weapons which the present South Korean ruling quarters made public, while spreading false materials about the North's "development of biochemical weapons", is nothing but a silly ruse to justify their chemical warfare scheme by means of taking issue with the DPRK.

As already exposed, chemical weapons have been produced and stockpiled from long ago in South Korea by the successive rulers.

There are more than 40 underground nuclear and chemical weapon depots in the Mt. Kyeryong area, South Chungchong Province, and near Suwon, Kyonggi Province, which keep large quantities of binary chemical weapons.

Former South Korean dictators built ten odd poison gas factories in South Korea and produced many chemical weapons there.

And they massively brought in from the United States warplanes capable of dropping chemical bombs and 155 mm and 203 mm artillery pieces to fire them.

The "Team Spirit" joint military exercises staged in South Korea every year is a major means of carrying out not only nuclear war but also chemical war.

New equipment for chemical warfare are thrown into these rehearsals involving units specialized in chemical warfare.

If the South Korean ruling quarters intend to inflict even nuclear and poison gas holocaust upon the fellow countrymen, driving the war chariot with outside forces, the nation will never pardon them.

Official Asserts 'Limit to Our Patience' Exists

SK0911104093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang November 9 (KCNA)—The head of the North side to the working-level contact for the exchange of presidential special envoys between the North and the South in a statement today refuted the argument of the South side's chief delegate who slandered the North side, while defending the bellicose utterances of the "defense minister" of his side in his telephone message dated November 4.

He said the allegation of the South side that the North side had "distorted" the fact is no more than a poor excuse which it made in an attempt to evade at any cost the responsibility for the outrageous remarks of its "defence minister," afraid of it, being conscious of the gravity of the possible effect of the remarks on the North-South relations.

"Knowing full well that a 'military countermove' is immediately the negation of dialogue and means a war, the South side made utmost efforts to make the telephone message run through with excuses. But this only shows how much it is embarrassed after letting out the grave utterances before the nation," he noted, and went on:

"The South side is repeating what others say about our fictitious 'nuclear problem,' reading others' mind, and trying to do harm to us with others' help. This made it self-evident that it cannot be a trustworthy dialogue partner to us.

"If the South side really want to resolve outstanding problems in the North-South relations including the nuclear problem at the negotiating table with us, it should trust fellow countrymen and their words. It is unimaginable either from the national point of view or of the demand of the times to trust others and their words and pin hopes on others while having dialogue with fellow countrymen.

"Moreover, we cannot but call into question the fact that the South side which had openly revealed its scheme to continuously seek "an international cooperation system" agreed not to discontinue 'Team Spirit' joint military exercises at the recent 'annual Security Consultative Meeting'.

"The decision not to discontinue 'Team Spirit', large-scale nuclear war exercises against us, the fellow countrymen, is in the same vein with the South Korean 'defence minister's' declaration of military confrontation, and it cannot be construed otherwise than an act of refusing an exchange of special envoys.

"If the South side truly intend to solve the nuclear problem through dialogue between the fellow countrymen, it must depart from the thinking pattern of war, confrontation and dependence on outside forces.

"The South side must know that there is limit to our patience.

"As solemnly declared already in a statement of the vice-minister of People's Armed Forces, it is our temperament to answer dialogue with dialogue, war with war.

"We are prepared for both dialogue and war.

"The South side must ponder over things, clearly mindful that there is no change in our firm stand to decisively punish provocateurs.

"Consistent is our stand to solve the important affairs of the nation in the interests of the whole nation by bringing an exchange of special envoys to a success.

"We will watch the attitude of the South side hereafter."

ROK Defense Minister's Remarks Denounced

SK0711234393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1311 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] In connection with the fact that South Korean defense minister made absurd remarks that the South Korean authorities would not rule out even a military countermove, taking issue with the fictitious DPRK nuclear development, our people are vigorously raising their voices denouncing the absurd remarks.

Yi In-chu, vice chairman of the Administrative and Economic Guide Committee of the Moranbong District in Pyongyang City, said:

[Begin Yi In-chu recording] As has been already reported, the South Korean puppet defense minister made absurd remarks that the South Korean authorities, if necessary, would not rule out even a military countermove, taking issue with our fictitious nuclear development. This is not a thing that can be hushed up. The South Korean puppet defense minister's absurd remarks are a vicious challenge to our Republic, which has valued peace and made all efforts to resolve nuclear issue through dialogue and to achieve national reunification. Regarding the South Korean puppet defense minister's outbursts as the declaration to frustrate dialogue against the North-South working-level contact for the exchange of special envoys and as the declaration of war to incite a military confrontation, we sternly denounce the outbursts.

For nearly half a century since the North and the South were divided, we have put forward the most aboveboard peaceful reunification proposals for national reunification and have made all efforts to realize them. In particular, we have expressed a sincere attitude and position to resolve nuclear issue through dialogue and to achieve national reunification. In addition, we have made positive efforts in all fields.

Judging from the South Korean defense minister's outbursts that even a military countermove cannot be ruled out, the dialogues, which South Korean authorities have held with us, have been nothing but empty words—complete lie—and have been a deceptive drama which have made a mockery of our nation.

As long as the South Korean authorities, which have professed themselves to be a so-called civilian-controlled government, declared a military countermove, it is our firm position to respond to dialogue with dialogue, war with war. Coping with the provokers who are dashing to give a [word indistinct] to our Republic, we will counter them with fire and inflict over a thousand-fold punishment on them.

The rascals should clearly see our heroic People's Army and our people's vigorous might—single-hearted unity among the leader, the party, and the masses—and act with discretion. The rascals should clearly realize that if they do not listen to our warnings and constantly adhere to a military confrontation policy, they will be faced with nothing but a miserable fate. They should act with discretion. [end recording]

Daily Says South Destroys National Culture

SK0911113793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 9 Nov 93

["Burlesque for Concealing Treacherous Crimes"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, November 9 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities hold forth about the "soul of the nation", but it is a burlesque to conceal their treacherous crimes and disguise themselves with "national" color, says NODONG SINMUN today.

The author of the article notes:

The South Korean successive rulers have engaged themselves in all manner of corruption and immorality, trampling underfoot the good manners and customs peculiar to the Korean people.

Encouraging the "creation" of anti-communist works cribbed from corrupt literary works and films of the imperialists and reactionary works copying Western culture, they have widely spread them with a zeal. They also set in motion venal intellectuals to produce shameless "works" under the cloak of "Koreanization" of West European culture, thus spoiling the time-honoured Korean national culture.

At the same time, they have viciously worked to destroy the heritages of national culture and inherent traditions and desperately hampered the development of national culture by introducing corrupt and decadent reactionary culture of the West and Japanese fashion and way of life. And they have sold off all the precious cultural treasures of the country and the nation to foreign forces, destroying and obliterating the resourceful patriotic traditions of our nation.

It is none other than the South Korean rulers who sold off to foreign aggressors one thousand and several hundred pieces of valuable articles among the cultural relics preserved at the museum in the Kyongpok Palace and arranged an "industrial exposition" there to make a havoc with the palace.

Most heinous of the crimes of the South Korean rulers in betraying the country and the nation is that they have made the written and spoken languages of the nation a medley of words by introducing foreign words at random.

Owing to the South Korean rulers' policy of obliterating the national language, the words native to our country have turned into mixtures of English and Japanese and publications, broadcasting, names of streets and things, and commodity ads are all tarred with a motley of foreign words.

Where would the South Korean authorities get the face to talk about the "soul of the nation" after turning the South Korean society into such a pandemonium?

With no amount of attempts can the South Korean rulers conceal the treacherous crimes in having destroyed the spirit of national independence and resourcefulness of the fellow countrymen and obliterated the tradition of national culture or forge history and deceive the people.

Commentaries View ROK-Japan Summit Meeting

KCNA Denounces 'Criminal' Meeting

SK0911042393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0412 GMT 9 Nov 93

["Criminal Confab"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, November 9 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sam and Japanese Prime Minister Hosokawa at a tete-a-tete November 6 expressed "concern over refusal of nuclear inspection" by the DPRK and "agreed to take a joint action until the North's nuclear problem will have been completely settled", according to a radio report from Seoul.

Hosokawa and Kim Yong-sam continue raising outcries over the DPRK's "refusal of nuclear inspection", turning blind eyes to the partiality of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which acts at the beck and call of political charlatans. They seek in this to touch off an international tongue-lashing campaign to harm the DPRK under this pretext.

Kim Yong-sam fully revealed his color as a pro-Japanese flunkeyist traitor when he said the Japanese imperialists that he would not ask any more the past in which the Japanese imperialists had forced immeasurable misfortunes and sufferings upon the Korean people and even made the flattering remarks that he felt "deep respect and trust for Prime Minister Hosokawa". [sentence as received]

Hosokawa, on his part, attempted to gloss over the past crimes of the Japanese imperialists with the mere words "repentance and apology," not uttering a single word about compensation. This can not be construed otherwise than a sign that the Japanese authorities refuse to honestly repent of the crime-woven past.

Facts show that their talks were a criminal confab in every respect, which can never be overlooked.

The South Korean and Japanese authorities must act with discretion, squarely looking at the trend of the times.

'Conspiratorial' Summit Criticized

SK0911043293 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1148 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Commentary by Yun Pyong-son: "Criminal Plot Aimed at Collusion"]

[Text] According to a report, a conspiratorial conference was held between South Korean ruler Kim Yong-sam and Japanese Prime Minister Hosokawa on 6 and 7 November in Kyongju and a joint news conference was held there. What we cannot overlook here is the fact that our fictitious nuclear issue was discussed there and that the two sides agreed to take joint measures against it. This is intended to further deteriorate the situation under the pretext of our so-called nuclear issue. Therefore, it is a vicious challenge to us who have been making all possible efforts for a peaceful solution of the nuclear issue.

It is because of the mean and shameless scheme by the imperialist reactionary forces and some officials of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], their followers, that our so-called nuclear issue has not been solved yet. We have clarified many times not one or two times, that we are neither capable of developing nuclear weapons nor feel the necessity to develop them. The innocence of our nuclear policy finds expression in the fact alone that at the second round of DPRK-U.S. talks we actively put forward a proposal for replacing our present graphite-moderated reactor and their related facilities with a light-water moderated reactor. This is why at the talks, the United States, supporting our proposal for introducing a light-water moderated reactor, expressed its readiness to work out with us ways for this.

Nevertheless, the imperialist reactionary forces and the South Korean puppets are attempting to place unwarranted pressure on us, laying the blame on our nuclear issue, and some officials at the IAEA adopted an unwarranted resolution at the 37th general meeting of the agency by making a fraudulent use of even the name of the general secretary of the United Nations. It is precisely because of this that no progress has been made in the solution of our nuclear issue.

In fact, those who are developing nuclear weapons are not we, but the Japanese and the South Korean authorities themselves. Many countries in the world have expressed worries that Japan's and the South Korean authorities' maneuvers for nuclear armaments pose a grave threat to peace and security on the Korean peninsula, as well as in Asia. This is not an accidental.

Japan and the South Korean authorities who are seeking nuclear armament and raising nuclear mushrooms under the U.S. nuclear umbrella are unqualified to talk about our nuclear issue. Nevertheless, the South Korean ruler and the Japanese prime minister presumptuously clamored about our fictitious nuclear issue and agreed to take a joint measure against it. This is not intended to solve the nuclear issue, but is rather an expression of the insidious attempt to make the problem more complicated and to do harm and crush us to death.

The conspiratorial conference between the South Korean ruler and the Japanese prime minister clearly shows that Japan and South Korea are further advancing toward the road of criminal collusion against us. Another thing that we cannot overlook in the current conspiratorial conference is the fact that the Japanese prime minister babbled about repentance of and apology for the crimes the Japanese imperialists committed in Korea in the past and that the South Korean ruler clamored that it is of help and the like.

As everyone knows, the Japanese imperialists imposed innumerable misfortune and sufferings on the Korean people in the past by occupying our country and forcing the colonial rule over our people for more than 40 years. The brutal massacre and suppression of the Korean people, the forcible arrests of the Korean people, and other crimes the Japanese imperialistsm committed in Korea cannot be tolerated forever and cannot be liquidated simply by the one or two empty words of apology and repentance. The liquidation of the crimes committee by the Japanese imperialists in the past can be possible only through the overall and thorough examination and revelation of the truth and through the expression of sincere apology and the sufficient material compensations.

However, this time again the Japanese prime minister tried to evade the crimes committed by the Japanese imperialists only with the word of apology as his predecessors did. The South Korean ruler, however, babbled about not adhering to the past, development in a future-oriented way, and the like. Thus, he begged for close cooperation.

At the end of last year a Japanese professor evaluated Kim Yong- sam as follows: Kim Yong-sam is a person whom Japan can handle easily in solving the pending issues, including the issue on the postwar compensations, because he is a man who wants to develop the economy by relying on Japan.

In fact, in the course of the current conspiratorial conference the person in authority of South Korea has vividly revealed his true colors as a dirty pro-Japanese and flunkeyist nation-seller who ignores the nation and who does not understand the nation's resentment.

We cannot tolerate the South Korean authorities which are advancing toward the road of victimizing the interests of the nation by continuously assuming a hostile attitude toward us while seeking an international mutual assistance system together with outside forces. The South Korean rulers will not escape responsibility for deteriorating North-South relations by laying the blame on the fictitious North Korean nuclear issue, for advancing toward the road of confrontation and war, and, thus, for delaying national reunification. The South Korean rulers who are dashing out into the road of fascism, war, and treachery more viciously than their predecessors while clamoring about a civilian government will not be able to escape the judgment of people.

Meeting Held 'To Conspire'

SK0911112893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1306 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] According to a radio report from Seoul, Kim Yong-sam and Japanese Prime Minister Hosokawa, who flew into South Korea, had a tete-a-tete on 6 November to conspire against us. During the meeting, they made absurd remarks about how they are worried about our refusal to accept nuclear inspections, and that they agreed to take joint measures until the North's nuclear issue is completely resolved.

This is another grave challenge toward our Republic and part of an international cooperative system to isolate and obliterate [malsal] us. It is a very dangerous plot to strengthen relations of collusion between South Korea and Japan.

For Kim Yong-sam and Hosokawa to babble about our refusal to accept nuclear inspections and so on are nothing but petty remarks. The negotiations between us and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] have been suspended and inspections are not being held. We are not responsible for this. It is a well-known fact that the IAEA, which abandoned fairness, objectivity, and neutrality and is acting on orders by some political swindlers opposing us, is wholly responsible.

Nevertheless, Hosokawa and Kim Yong-sam are continuing to babble about our refusal to accept nuclear inspections. It is a well-known fact that this is aimed at creating an international whirlwind to harm us.

At the 1 November 48th UN General Assembly, a resolution related to the IAEA's annual work, which included the content of our nuclear inspection and so on, was adopted. In conformity with this, Hosokawa and Kim Yong-sam decided to take joint measures by finding fault with our nuclear issue. This is by no means a coincidence.

These facts clearly show that Japan and the South Korean authorities are together persistently maneuvering to make us yield through international pressure and sanctions under whatever circumstance. Kim Yong-sam said that he will no longer be inquisitive about the deep-rooted grudge of the past in which the Japanese imperialists enforced innumerable unhappiness and sufferings upon the Korean people. He also showed a servile and shameful behavior by even making flattering remarks by saying that he deeply respects and trusts Prime Minister Hosokawa.

This kind of conduct by Kim Yong-sam is truly an unforgivable nation-selling act ridiculing the nation's dignity. This is indeed a manifestation of a pro-Japanese flunkeyist nation-selling nature yielding to a big power.

Hosokawa did not utter a word about the issue of compensation for the antihumane crimes committed by the Japanese imperialists in the past. He attempted to avoid the past crimes with the mere words of self-examination and apology. This shows that the Japanese authorities are not truly repentant of the past, which is filled with crimes, and that this can be assessed only as trying to wriggle out of the past crimes.

All facts show that this meeting was a criminal confab through and through, which can by no means be overlooked. The South Korean and Japanese authorities must look straight at the trend of the times and act with discretion.

Forum on Japan's Postwar Settlement Opens

SK0811123193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 8 (KCNA)—The Pyongyang international forum on Japan's postwar settlement issues opened at the People's Palace of Culture Sunday.

Participating in the forum are delegates of the committee for compensation to "comfort women for the army" and victims to the Pacific War, Korean legal, academic and press officials, delegates of the central headquarters of the Korean side of the fact-finding group on the forcible drafting of Koreans and officials of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), delegates of the national liaison council of the Japanese side of the fact-finding group on the forcible drafting of Koreans and the centre of materials on Japan's responsibility for the war, officials of the U.N. non-governmental organisations, lawyers of the Japan Bar Federation, delegates of the task force for the Filipino victims of military sexual slavery by Japan and delegates of the "South Korean council for measures on the volunteers corps problem".

Press officials of foreign embassies in Pyongyang were present as observers.

O Mun-han, chairman of the committee for compensation to "comfort women for the army" and victims to the Pacific war, in his opening address said:

Since the Japanese Government is trying to play down the criminal nature of what it committed in the past and hush it up, it is very important to probe the truth and ask its legal and moral responsibility.

In a congratulatory speech on behalf of the participants from Japan Jiro Suzuki, professor at Soka University, Japan, said that Japan could get trust from the people of Asia and the world and improve Japan-DPRK relations only when it properly solved the problem of postwar settlement which remains unsolved for half a century.

More than 10 delegates, on the basis of historical data, spoke about their studies of various aspects of the problem of Japan's postwar settlement in view of international law.

The speakers proved the unlawfulness and invalidity of the "Ulsa five-point treaty" and debated on the legal grounds of responsibility and compensation for it.

Kim Kil-sin, chief of a chair of Kim Il-song University, said that the "Ulsa five-point treaty" was one "signed" after the Japanese imperialists shaped a Korea policy of making her a protectorate in the future at a conference of the elder statesmen and cabinet meetings in 1904 and the whole course from the "negotiation" to the "signing" of it was run through with armed coercion and threat, and cited facts proving that.

Holding that the "treaty" without the endorsement of the then sovereign and formality was totally invalid, the speaker said its invalidity has been made clearer with the recent discovery of secret telegrams and personal letters of Korean Emperor Kojong to the heads of state of big powers.

Fukuju Unno, a professor at Meiji University, said: "In the 'Japan-Korea protocol' concluded in 1904, Japan guaranteed the independence and territorial integrity of Korea and stipulated prior mutual endorsement in case of signing a treaty with a third state. Japan, however, concluded the 'second Japan-Britain alliance pact' and the 'Portsmouth peace treaty' recognising the protectorate domination over Korea from the stand of a state sovereign possessed of the territorial rights."

"Such facts," he added, "furnish another ground for the invalidity of the 'treaty'".

Japanese lawyer Etsuro Totsuka said that the "Japan-Korea annexation treaty" based on the "Ulsa five-point treaty" which was invalid from the time of "signing" was a castle on the sand.

"Japan's 'right to dominate Korea' which was established without any ground and validity in view of international law was wholly illegal. It meant domination through military occupation by outside forces in view of international law", he said, and added:

"Accordingly, Korea was illegally reduced to a colony by the invalid 'protectorate treaty' and the Korean people lived in slavery under suppression and discrimination and the 'comfort women for the army' were subjected to double and treble slavery."

The speakers said that under this condition, the assessment of the validity of the "Ulsa five-point treaty" was a matter of clarifying the legal, moral and political responsibility of Japan, and true friendly relations between Korean and Japanese nations could be established only when an appropriate solution to it was achieved. They stated that the Japanese Government could not evade its responsibility for compensation.

The speakers also elaborated on the forcible drafting of the "comfort women for the army" by government power and its institutionalisation, its real state, the responsibility for it from the viewpoint of international law and massacre committed by the Japanese imperialists.

Lourder Indai Sajor, coordinator of the task force for the Filipina victims of military sexual slavery by Japan, charged that the establishment of the "comfort women" system was one of the most hideous form of sexual violation and discrimination against women and, citing factual materials, exposed the crimes committed by the Japanese imperialists in depriving women of their rights and reducing them to sex slaves.

Yi Hyo-chae, co-representative of the South Korean "Council for Measures on the Volunteers Corps Problem" (Chongdaehyop), said the essence of the problem of the "comfort women" for the Japanese imperial army boiled down to that the Japanese Government and Army forcibly drafted Korean women and made them sex slaves by their policy. "This was not only individual and collective rapes committed organisationally and legally for a long time but also a crime designed to destroy the nation," she stressed.

Drawing attention to the attitude of the Japanese Government and the stand of the South Korean authorities evading a probe into the truth of the problem, she asked: "How can we not ask the responsibility for reparation and compensation when the war crimes and inhumane crimes of Japan have been proven by facts?" She declared that the problem of compensation to the "comfort women" was not solved by the "South Korea-Japan Agreement."

Hirofumi Hayashi, assistant professor at Gakuin University in Kanto, and Rumiko Nishino, a writer, on the basis of their investigation into the command and order system of Japan's policy of "comfort women for the army", presented materials on the involvement of the Japanese Army and Navy, Ministries of Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs and two governments-general in Korea and Taiwan in the issue, study of the policy of setting up comfort houses after 1932 and after the outbreak of Sino-Japanese War and the Pacific War, the cooperation between the army and the gendarme in this regard and the control of the "comfort women".

Sumiko Shimizu, member of the house of councillors from the Japan Social-democratic Party, briefed the forum on the activities in the diet regarding the problem of the "comfort women".

Yun Chong-ok, co-representative of the "South Korean Council for Measures on the Volunteers Corps Problem", presented materials on the background of the setting up of comfort houses, the time, the carriage, the places and the management and control of the comfort houses.

The speakers branded the attempts of the Japanese Government to hush up old Japan's inhuman crimes in legally guaranteeing the organised rapes and gang rapes of more than 200,000 women by the "imperial army" as a mockery of world conscience and justice and one more insult to the victims, dead and alive.

The speakers also debated on the atrocious massacres by the Japanese imperialists.

They said that the most barbarous and ferocious murder of Koreans by the Japanese imperialists was the most shocking, inhuman extra-large crime against morality ever known in history and it was typical of the crimes committed against human rights and human morality in view of international law.

They emphasized that the Japanese Government could never avoid an adequate apology and responsibility for compensation and maintained that the apology and compensation were a matter of the conscience of the Japanese.

The forum heard testimonies of former "comfort women".

A banquet was given for the participants in the Pyongyang international forum on Japan's postwar settlement issues in the evening.

Vice Premier Meets Participants

SK0811130593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1116 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 8 (KCNA)—Vice-Premier Kim Pok-sin met and had a conversation with the delegates of various organisations in the Asian region who are participating in the Pyongyang international forum on Japan's postwar settlement issues at the Mansudae Assembly Hall Monday.

Present there was O Mun-han, chairman of the committee for compensation to "comfort women for the army" and victims to the Pacific War.

Forum Adopts Resolution

SK0911053393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0423 GMT 9 Nov 93

["Japan Must Make Adequate Compensation to Victims"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, November 9 (KCNA)—A report of the Pyongyang international forum on Japan's postwar settlement issues was adopted at the forum Monday.

According to the report, the delegates at the forum proved with undeniable historical facts that in the past Japan fabricated "treaties" with the threat of use of arms and coercion, unleashed the Pacific War and thus invaded Korea and other Asian countries, maltreated defenceless people and ran the gamut of war crimes such as massacre, destruction, plunder, arson, forcible detention and persecution of prisoners of war everywhere it went.

A report said that the 1905 "Ulsa 5-point Treaty" was invalid in view of international law of usage because it was fabricated by Japan with the mobilization of the army and coercion.

Especially, strongly-worded remarks were made to the effect that the government and military of old Japan, abusing government power, installed a system of "comfort women" management in the army, took away Asian women estimated at hundreds of thousands, mostly Koreans, as sex slaves through appeasement and tricks, forcibly drafted more than six million young and middle-aged Koreans and subjected them to hard labour and death en masse, and that this was obviously crimes against humanity.

The delegates urged the Japanese Government to take practical measures to break with the wrong past and become a member of international community in the interest of the Japanese and, further, Asian people.

They held that the Japanese Government must totally investigate and open to the public the whole picture and data on the war crimes, sex enslavement, forcible slave labour, the "volunteer corps", massacre, losses of human lives and other criminal violations of human rights, make an official apology, admit its responsibility under international law, punish the criminals and make an adequate compensation to rehabilitate the much damaged honor and dignity of the victims and the bereaved families and alleviate their sufferings.

Compensation must be both monetary and non-monetary, that is, a reparation.

They held that compensation must be made for the material damages through destruction and looting by the Japanese imperialists during their illegal occupation of Korea.

They also demanded that Japan compensate for the cultural assets destroyed or plundered by the Japanese imperilaists and return all it has now.

And the participants considered that the truth of the crimes must be written in textbooks for Japanese schools at all levels so as to contribute to the prevention of the recurrence of the crimes.

They expressed the hope that the governments, parliaments, political parties and organisations of all countries and international organisations would pay deep attention to this.

International Forum Closes 8 Nov

SK0911004193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1518 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 8 (KCNA)—The Pyongyang international forum on Japan's postwar settlement issues closed today.

At the two-day forum more than 20 figures took the floor and five former "comfort women for the army" and labor draftees made testimonies.

The forum heard speeches before the closing ceremony today.

Prof. and Dr. Yi Chong-hyon, a researcher of the history institute of the academy of social sciences, said the atrocities of the Japanese imperialists in forcibly drafting more than six million young and middle-aged people of Korea and maltreating and overdriving them like slaves, killing more than one million people and taking away hundreds of thousands of women as sex slaves were unheard-of barbarities designed to destroy the Korean nation and a violation of the treaty on the prevention of crimes against humanitarianism and massacre and of the world declaration on human rights.

Prof. Fukuju Unno of Meiji University said the Japanese Government's forcible drafting of Koreans was perpetrated on the scale of the state by the "national general mobilization act" promulgated and effectuated in 1938.

He said the number of those drafted by the Japanese imperialists was about 4,910,000 or 5,030,000, not including those taken to Asian countries under the Japanese military occupation, Sakhalin and Manchuria and those drafted as "labour service corps", "working volunteers corps" and in the name of "students mobilization", etc.

The "mobilization" of Koreans by old Japan was an open and forcible one ignoring human rights, which caused dispersion of families, uncertainty of whereabouts, leaving of human remains uncared for, and this should be defined as a coercive action committed on state responsibility, he noted.

Dr. Choe Yun-kyu of the science and encyclopaedia press group said the forcible savings and unpaid wages for more than six million draftees estimated on the basis of data published by the fact-finding group on the forcible drafting of Koreans amount to 6,000,000 million yen in present Japanese currency.

Dr. Won Chong-kyu, a room chief of the history institute of the academy of social sciences, pointed out that the Japanese imperialists destroyed ancient tombs of Korea including royal tombs, castles, tombstones, old buildings, stone structures and other historical relics and took away several hundred thousand pieces of goods of incalculable value, such as ceramic wares of Koryo and Yi dynasties, weaponry and accourtements and other grave goods from old tombs and books.

The speakers held that Japan should make compensations for the Japanese imperialists' premeditated destruction of economic projects and facilities and intentional random issue of "Korean banknotes" around their defeat and for the economic losses consequent thereupon, for its conspiracy and participation in the planning of the Korean war and for the postwar policy hostile to the DPRK.

They stressed that Japan's remuneration and compensations must be state-sponsored ones from its international legal responsibility for the aggression on Korea and they should be also compensations for individual victims.

A report of the Pyongyang international forum on Japan's postwar settlement issues was adopted at the forum.

Japan's Bid for Security Council Seat Denounced

SK0711115593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0818 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 7 (KCNA)—A NODONG SINMUN analyst today comments on the Japanese authorities' imprudent attempt to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Noting that Japan now is loudmouthed about its "international role" and "leadership ability" and that Japanese Foreign Minister Hata let out an impertinent remark that Japan should have "a diplomatic say" in world affairs so that it may "have a big voice in various aspects", the analyst says:

Such remarks of the Japanese authorities clearly show that they are dreaming of a political power talking down to the international community after capturing a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

Japan, a criminal state of World War II, has not yet atoned for its past crimes against mankind. Nevertheless, it is ridiculously trying to take the position of leading the international community.

While its criminal past remains to be liquidated, Japan neither can have the face nor is entitled to say about becoming a permanent member of the UN Security Council. [sentence as received]

The Japanese authorities' dream of becoming a political power, yearning for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, stems from their militarist reinvasion scheme.

Japan, as a war criminal state denounced and rejected worldwide, must clearly know its place, not pursue its wild ambition to become a political power but behave prudently.

'Aggressive' Nature of Japanese Forces Condemned

SK0911054293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT 9 Nov 93

["Absurd Sophism"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, November 9 (KCNA)—The Japanese authority recently claimed that the armed forces of Japan do not pose a threat to other countries because their mission is to "defend the territory" and "preserve peace." A ranking official of the Defence Agency of Japan argued that Japan's military strength is not a "factor of threat" to other Asian countries.

NODONG SINMUN today brands these utterances of the Japanese ruling quarters as no more than a trick to conceal the aggressive and dangerous nature of Japan's armed forces, lull the apprehensions and vigilance of Asian people against it and, behind the scene, promote arms buildup and preparations for overseas aggression.

The news analyst says:

It is a lie that Japan's arms buildup is not a "factor of threat" to Asian countries.

The military authorities of Japan contend that the main point of the military principle and policy of Japan must be offensive because denial of preemptive attack means a "suicidal choice for the ruin of the state" just like sitting and waiting for death.

This openly reveals their intention for overseas aggression.

The Japan "Self-Defence Forces" are reinforced with more offensive arms. The ground mobile forces such as latest-type tanks and armored vehicles have been strengthened and the naval and aerial combat equipment is increased and replaced with large-sized, medium and long-range one at an accelerated pace. Japan even plans to introduce an aircraft carrier.

The facts are undisputable proof that Japan's preparations for overseas aggression are being stepped up at a very grave stage. The first target of the attack of Japan's aggressive forces is the Korean peninsula.

With no sophism can the Japanese reactionaries conceal the aggressive and dangerous nature of their armed forces.

Yi In-mo Meets Overseas Koreans From Japan

SK0711095993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0809 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 7 (KCNA)—Yi In-mo, the incarnation of faith and will, met with the members of the 202nd short-term home-visiting group of Koreans in Japan staying in the socialist homeland here on Friday.

Yi In-mo recalled the unyielding struggle he had waged, not abandoning his revolutionary principle despite all sorts of appeasement and deception, persecutions and barbarous tortures by the South Korean ruling quarters for scores of years. "I had nothing to be afraid of because I firmly believed that we were sure to win as long as we had the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il," he said.

He pointed out that all the Koreans overseas should staunchly live and struggle in whatever adversity with the highest pride of holding the great leader and the dear leader in high esteem and with unshakable conviction.

Members of the visiting group said through the meeting they got great inspiration from Yi's strong revolutionary will and indomitable fighting spirit, and expressed their firm resolve to devote their all to the struggle for the development and prosperity of the socialist homeland and for national reunification.

Pro-North Korean Groups in Japan Hold Parade

SK0711114093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0811 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo November 5 (KNS-KCNA)—"One Korea Parade-Homeland Is One" was held on November 3 under the co-sponsorship of the Kyoto prefectural headquarters of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) and the Kyoto prefectural headquarters of the South Korean residents association in Japan (Mindan).

Over 1,000 compatriots of the two organisations marched through downtown Kyoto, holding banners reading "reunfication of the country," "national reunification" and "peaceful reunification".

Kim Il-song Receives Chinese Delegation 8 Nov

SK0811150893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0800 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song received the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference delegation. On 8 November, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song received the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference delegation led by Hong Xuezhi, vice chairman of its national committee, which is visiting our country.

Kim Yong-nam, vice premier and foreign minister; Chong Tu-hwan, chairman of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland Central Committee; and Qiao Zonghuai, PRC ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to our country, were on hand.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song talked with the guests in a warm and friendly [ttattutago chinsonjogin] atmosphere. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song received a gift from the guests. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song arranged a luncheon for the guests.

Kim Chong-il Receives Gift

SK0911002293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1507 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 8 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from a delegation of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference on a visit to Korea. The gift was handed to an official concerned by head of the delegation Hong Xuezhi, vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Air Services Agreement Signed With PRC

SK0911003793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1509 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 8 (KCNA)—An intergovernmental agreement on air service between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China was signed here Monday.

Present at the signing ceremony on the Korean side were Kim Yo-ung, general director of the Civil Aviation General Administration, and other officials concerned, and on the opposite side were the Chinese Government civil aviation delegation led by Jiang Zhuping, director general of the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China, and a councillor of the Chinese Embassy here.

Vice Premier Meets Delegation

SK0911004293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1519 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 8 (KCNA)—Vice Premier Hong Song-nam met and had a friendly talk at the Mansudae Assembly Hall Monday with the visiting Chinese Government civil aviation delegation led by Jiang Zhuping, director general of the General Administration of Civil Aviation.

Present on the occasion were Kim Yo-ung, general director of the Civil Aviation General Administration, and Qiao Zonghuai, Chinese ambassador to Korea.

President Kim Il-song Greets Cambodian King

SK0811130293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1114 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 8 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Monday sent a message of greetings to his Majesty Norodom Sihanouk, king of the Kingdom of Cambodia, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the independence of the country.

President Kim Il-song in the message said the Cambodian people have waged the unremitting struggle for defending the independence and sovereignty of the country, bravely overcoming various difficulties and trials for the past 40 years.

He continued:

Today your people are significantly celebrating the independence day under the historical circumstances in which a new Constitution was adopted and your majesty ascended to the throne as king of Cambodia.

Our people note with high estimation that the government and people of the Kingdom of Cambodia are vigorously accelerating the work for national reconciliation and unity and reconstruction of the country, upholding the noble intentions of your majesty.

We will as ever extend full support and firm solidarity to the Cambodian people in their efforts for the independence and peace of the country, the unity of the nation and territorial integrity and to your independent patriotic cause.

I take this opportunity to sincerely wish your majesty and your people greater success in the work for building a prosperous new Cambodia, independent, peaceful, neutral and non-aligned, and you good health and happiness.

I express the belief that the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation existing between our two peoples will further strengthen and develop in various fields.

Pyongyang Papers Mark Cambodia's National Day

SK0911060693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 9 (KCNA)—Papers here today observed the 40th anniversary of the national day of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The Cambodian people, finding themselves at a time of a new turn in their history, are making great successes on the road of achieving the peace of the country and national unity and building a new Cambodia United, independent and prosperous, NODONG SINMUN in an editorial article says, and goes on:

After the proclamation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the royal government and people are striving for national unity, the stability of the country and the rehabilitation and development of the economy.

The royal government formed some time ago published a new political program calling for concentration of efforts on achieving the unity of the country, promotion of national unity and reconciliation and brisk development of the economy.

The Korean people sincerely rejoice over the achievements made by the Cambodian people in rebuilding the country and realising its unified development and extend full support to their just cause.

The friendly and cooperative relations between the peoples of Korea and Cambodia are favorably developing. They are getting tighter as the days go by as they are based on deep intimacy between the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and respected King Norodom Sihanouk.

The Korean people will as ever value these and make active efforts to further consolidate them.

An editorial article of MINJU CHOSON says the Korean people believe that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples will further develop on the basis of the idea of independence, peace and friendship and wishes them greater success in their struggle for the independent development and prosperity of the country.

Government Delegation Leaves for Cambodia

SK0711123993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0843 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 7 (KCNA)—A government delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea headed by premier of the Administration Council Kang Song-san left here today by plane for an official goodwill visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia at the invitation of the Cambodian Government.

It was seen off at the airport by Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, Vice-Premier Hong Song-nam and officials concerned.

KSDP Chairman, Delegation Depart for Cambodia

SK0711125793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0844 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 7 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Korean Social Democratic Party [KSDP] headed by chairman of its Central Committee Kim Pyong-sik left here today by air for a visit to Cambodia.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Kim I-hyon, vice-chairman of the Central Committee, KSDP.

LSWYK Delegation Returns From Thailand

SK0911020393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] A League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea [LSWYK] delegation led by Choe Yong-hae, chairman of the LSWYK Central Committee, returned home today by plane after visiting Thailand. Kim Tong-nyon, vice chairman of the LSWYK Central Committee, received the delegation at the airport.

Vice President Meets New Palestinian Ambassador

SK0911001393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1505 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 8 (KCNA)—Vice President Yi Chong-ok met and had a conversation with new

Palestinian Ambassador to Korea Shahir Muhammad at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on November 4 when the latter paid a courtesy call on him.

Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Kim Yong-il was present there.

DPRK-Belarus Friendship Association Inaugurated

SK0711114893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0812 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 7 (KCNA)—An inaugural meeting of the Korea-Belarus Friendship Association took place here on November 2.

The chairman, vice-chairmen, secretary general and members of the association were elected at the meeting.

Pyon Yong-ip, vice-president of the Academy of Sciences, was elected chairman of the association.

Kim Il-song Extends Thanks to People's Actresses

SK0811043693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0405 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 8 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song extended thanks to people's actress Yu Kyong-ae and merited actresses Kim Chumok and Tak Myong-hui of the Radio and TV Broadcasting Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

They had read with good narrative skill revolutionary novels including the full-length novel "Spring of Korea" among the cycle of novels "Immortal History" (post-liberation part) and the full-length novel "On the Road of Loyalty" among the cycle of novels "Immortal Guide", thereby powerfully inspiring the working people to the struggle to accomplish socialist cause of chuche.

They had also read well books of literature and art reflecting the history of the Korean people who fought bravely against the foreign aggressors and feudalistic exploitation, thus helping the working people work devotedly for glorifying the socialist motherland with a time-honoured history of 5,000 years.

Kim Chong-il Sends Thanks to Hospitals

SK0711095793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0802 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 7 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to the Tongdaewon district people's hospital, Pyongyang, the North Hwanghae provincial people's hospital, the Chongjin people's hospital No. 1, the Kangwon provincial people's hospital and the Kaesong people's hospital which set an example in the preventive and curative medical care for people.

Medical workers of the hospitals unhesitatingly donated their blood and skins to a worker, a co-op farmer and armymen in a critical condition and restored their health with utmost care.

Anniversary of Kim Chong-il's Work Publication

SK0811125593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1046 GMT 8 Nov 93

["Strengthening of Party Ideological Work, Consistent Policy of WPK"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, November 8 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today observes the 20th anniversary of the publication of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's classical work "On Improving Party Ideological Work" (November 8, 1973).

The work clearly expounds all questions arising in improving the ideological work of the party as required by the party's strategic policy of modelling the whole of party and society on the chuche idea, the revolutionary idea of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The vitality of the work has been proved for its justness and truthfulness in that it gives a clear exposition of all questions of principle in ideological work such as establishment of a revolutionary habit of study among officials, improvement of the system and method of work and invigoration of agitation for increased production and the movement of following the examples of the heroes of films.

The paper says the dear leader has wisely guided the party ideological work.

The author of the article continues:

The dear leader has wholly subordinated the party ideological work to the modelling of the whole of party and society on the chuche idea and wisely guided people to constantly improve the system and method of ideological work as required by the developing reality.

He defined long ago the modelling of the whole society on the chuche idea as the supreme programme of the party and the general task of our revolution and laid down a revolutionary policy of subordinating all ideological work to it. Thus, he provided a most correct guideline in constantly developing in depth the party ideological work in keeping with the character and mission of our party which struggles to complete socialism, with the great chuche idea as the guiding principle.

With a deep insight into the significance and importance of the improvement of the system and method of party ideological work, he put forward many policies to solve this question.

We have today the most advantageous system and method of ideological work and a strong force of propaganda and agitation provided by the dear leader. When we conduct ideological work in a more enterprising way on the basis of this solid foundation, we can further consolidate the singlehearted unity of our revolutionary ranks and effect a constant upswing in socialist construction.

The greatness of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is the fundamental source of his wise leadership of ideological work and his immortal exploits for the times and revolution, the country and people.

Municipal Assembly Voters' Lists Made Public

SK0711115193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0814 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 7 (KCNA)—Lists of voters for the election of deputies to the provincial (municipal) people's assemblies were made public Saturday in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Registered in the lists of voters made public by the sub-constituencies throughout the country are all the citizens in the relevant districts above 17 who have the right to vote.

The voters throughout the country now are firmly determined to consolidate the revolutionary power as firm as a rock and demonstrate once again the might of the Korean-style socialism in which the leader, the party, and the masses are united in one mind, through the elections slated for November 21.

South Korea

Defense Ministry on DPRK Nuclear Threat

SK0911091993 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 9 Nov 93 p 4

[Article by Kim Chae-hong]

[Text] International pressure on North Korea regarding the nuclear issue is imminent. In this atmosphere, a rumor of a U.S. attack on North Korea's nuclear base and an unusual move by North Korea's military establishment have been reported. This atmosphere has caused people to worry about the situation on the Korean peninsula, as if the Korean peninsula were in a crisis situation.

On 7 November, the British SUNDAY TIMES reported that the United States has a plan to attack North Korea's nuclear base. In an interview with the U.S. National Broadcasting Company, President Clinton said: "If North Korea attacks the ROK, the United States will regard it as the attack on the United States."

Concerning such an atmosphere, the National Defense Ministry [NDM] expressed its position: "The crisis situation on the Korean peninsula is only an ordinary threat [tongsangjokin wihyop] from North Korea, which we have observed for a long time. Other than this ordinary threat, we have not observed any critical threat recently." A person in authority said the ROK-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting [SCM] held from 3 to 4 November already discussed sufficiently the ordinary threat from North Korea. A key SCM agenda item was North Korea's nuclear issue. At the SCM, ROK-U.S. joint measures to cope with North Korea's nuclear issue were also confirmed on the policy dimension of the two countries' new administrations.

In short, ROK-U.S. joint measures to cope with North Korea's nuclear issue consist of a stick-and-carrot strategy. Working-level contacts for exchanging special envoys and U.S. behind-the-scenes negotiations with North Korea are an appeasing strategy recognizing North Korea as a partner of diplomacy and dialogue.

Our NDM and military authorities have said that countermeasures should be worked out, bracing for the possibility that North Korea reverses its use of dialogue and negotiation. Many military officials, however, share the opinion that countermeasures should not include a preemptive attack.

"A war to prevent the provocation of war," which some foreign media mentioned in their commentaries, is quite different from the foreign policy on which the Clinton administration and the ROK Government base their strategy.

Amid the mounting suspicion about North Korea's nuclear development in April 1991, then Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku said that the ROK may choose to work out ways to eliminate North Korea's nuclear facilities by resorting to an "Entebbe-style sudden attack operation." This statement caused a ripple in the country. Even then, Minister Yi explained that his true intention was distorted.

In an interview with a television station held just before the SCM, Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae said: "If international pressures are imposed on North Korea in connection with its nuclear issue, a certain kind of military move can be expected. We, therefore, should discuss ways to prepare for such a military move." The NDM explains that this preparation does not mean a preemptive attack on North Korea, but is limited to the dimension of "preparation for an emergency."

Concerning an unusual move by North Korea, a high-ranking NDM official said: "We understand that setting 1995 as the year of reunification, North Korea had completed the military preparation, including the relocation of Army units, by 27 July 1992, the 40th anniversary of the Korean conflict armistice agreement. This official added that the NDM is providing a comprehensive counterstrategy regarding not only North Korea's nuclear issue, but also the current Kim Il-song system. He continued to say that the NDM should brace for two possible scenarios, such as the Kim Il-song system will seek dialogue, opening, and economic cooperation, or the system will attempt to drive the situation into crisis due to its failure to abandon the thinking of the old cold war. He said it is true the NDM are going through difficulties for the time being."

The NDM long ago abandoned the thinking in which they welcomed the increase of North Korea's threat, as they did in the past. Officials of the NDM said: "The new threat by North Korea demands an increase in defense spending." They added: "Japan is not indifferent to the development of a U.S. Theater Missile Defense because of North Korea's long-range missile Nodong-2." Some, therefore, point out that the evaluation of threat should be precise. We have depended on the United States for most of the evaluation of threat because it requires a high-level of capability to collect information. Similarly, Japan and some European countries also depend on the United States in this regard.

Regarding the rumor of crisis surrounding the Korean peninsula, officials of the NDM sum it up, saying: "We should pay more attention to North Korea's adventurous military act than to the U.S. preemptive attack on North Korea using missiles. We, however, cannot observe any serious sign on the part of North Korea at this moment." They added: "If this rumor of crisis hinders overseas economic cooperation, this is an unexpected side effect caused by such a rumor."

Presidential Adviser Says War Risk '50 Percent'

BR0911115793 Paris LIBERATION in French 9 Nov 93 p 19

[Interview with Professor Yi Sang-u, adviser to the president, by Luc Lampriere in Seoul; date not given: "The Two Koreas Are Confronting One Another Alone"—first two paragraphs are LIBERATION introduction]

[Text] The situation on the Korean peninsula is once again one of the most explosive in the world. U.S. President Bill Clinton warned on Sunday that "any attack against South Korea would be viewed as an attack against the United States," and reaffirmed the "very firm opposition" of the United States to North Korea's development of an atomic bomb. Headed by "Great Leader" Kim Il- song (aged 81) and his son Kim Jong-il, the Communist regime has refused since the beginning of the year to allow any inspection by the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) of two of its nuclear sites where Washington and Seoul suspect it is developing an atomic bomb. Washington, which earlier this year completed two rounds of fruitless negotiations with Pyongyang, fears, however, that the imposition of sanctions and North Korea's economic collapse could provoke it to launch a "desperate attack," even conventional, against South Korea, a senior Pentagon official stated on Friday on his return from Seoul. "They are starving and therefore may prefer to go down fighting," he declared, noting that North Korea has stepped up production of military equipment and massed 70 percent of its Armed Forces (compared to 65 percent in 1991) along the border with South Korea.

Professor Yi Sang-u, a specialist in international relations at Seoul's Sogang University and, since last April, adviser to South Korean President Kim Yong-sam, spoke to LIBERATION about the regional situation.

[Lampriere] How do you assess the present military risks on the Korean peninsula?

[Yi] There is still fear of a new Korean war. In 40 years, we have never reached a real agreement with North Korea to prevent a new conflict. Pyongyang maintains a very large conventional army, two-thirds of which is deployed along the demilitarized zone (the demarcation line separating the two Koreas at approximately the 38th Parallel—editor's note), which is just a few kilometers from Seoul. Although the experts may differ in their opinions, this question relates less to North Korea's military capacity than to the nature of its intentions. Whereas in the past confrontation between North and South Korea was just one element in a wider East-West confrontation, we are now faced with a new kind of duel in which the two Koreas are confronting one another alone.

[Lampriere] The U.S. determination, in particular, to settle the North Korean nuclear question seems particularly strong, nevertheless. There is nothing to indicate any weakening of Washington's support for Seoul, is there?

[Yi] Nobody can doubt the Americans' determination to support us in the event of a new conflict. The principal question is, in fact, whether or not they would be able to do so successfully. To date, the Americans' principal weapon has been the nuclear threat. That is no longer the case today: Washington has announced the withdrawal of all its nuclear arsenal from Korea and promised North Korea that it would not use—as a first strike—nuclear weapons against Pyongyang. Without this option, the only response available to the Americans in the event of North Korean aggression is a conventional military response, comparable to that used in the Gulf War, for example. In this field, the United States is not in a position of strength: They only maintain a limited presence here (approximately two-thirds of a division), which is not enough to confront the North Korean Army. If a new war broke out today, it would be a "blitzkrieg" which would last less than a week. The United States would not be able to reinforce its conventional forces in Korea to a sufficiently decisive degree in such a short time.

[Lampriere] Given these conditions, what is the present likelihood of a new conflict?

[Yi] Today it is 50 percent. And it will remain quite strong for another two years. After that, the economic gap between North Korea and South Korea, which is already considerable, will have become so wide that the North should no longer have the means to support a military offensive. Their military machinery is deteriorating by the day under the effect of the economic crisis and, failing Chinese military assistance, the danger of attack by Pyongyang will probably disappear within two years.

[Lampriere] With the nuclear option, Seoul has a particularly useful card. Why would it give that up?

[Yi] Indeed, if Pyongyang does not voluntarily abandon its military nuclear development, it is hard to see what concrete measures the United States could take to force it to do so. We, therefore, find ourselves in a stalemate.

[Lampriere] What would be the effect of economic sanctions at a time when there is talk of North Korea's economic collapse?

[Yi] The economic situation in North Korea undoubtedly is deteriorating daily. But, despite everything, and apart from the fact that the effectiveness of any sanctions depends largely on China's attitude, their political system remains extremely solid.

'Source': Kim Il-song Likely To Adopt Openness

SK0611084793 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 6 Nov 93 p 2

[By Beijing-based correspondent Kim Chung-kun]

[Text] North Korean President Kim Il-song is very likely to adopt a gradual policy of openness through an improvement of relations with the United States if a satisfactory solution is brought to the nuclear issue, according to a report.

A Western diplomatic source in Beijing on 5 November said, "We understand that this intention of President Kim was passed on indirectly to the ROK foreign minister during his visit to China toward the end of October." He then said, "Through the behind-the-scenes dialogue between the United States and North Korea, the two sides are aware of each other's ultimate objective and are near the final stage of the talks. In the process of the dialogue the United States is trying to give the minimum to North Korea, worried about establishing a bad precedence, and North Korea is trying to get the maximum from the United States, such as the exchange of trade representative offices and the suspension of the Team Spirit exercise."

In this connection, Chinese Premier Li Peng, in a meeting with the ROK Foreign Minister Han, is reported to have said, "Why should the ROK talk about a tough measure against North Korea? The ROK has nothing else in particular to worry about now since the ROK has been in confrontation with North Korea over the last 40 years. North Korea is only striving hard to maintain stability in its system and to overcome the economic crisis. The nuclear issue will find a clue to its resolution in the U.S-North Korean talks, and the ROK ought to approach the problem from this viewpoint."

The source went on to say: There is also a possibility that Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Liu Huaqiu, who is now visiting the United States to prepare for the U.S.-China summit scheduled for 19 November, will play a mediator's role in the behind-the-scenes negotiations between the United States and North Korea.

The source referred to the following instances as specific examples suggest a change in President Kim's sentiment: At the celebrations marking the DPRK founding anniversary on 9 September, President Kim conveyed his praises to the Chinese delegation for the first time for the Chinese success in pushing ahead with its policy of openness and the enhancement of the people's standard of living; with the ensuing visits to China by North Korean figures rapidly increasing, North Korea obviously is interested in the reform and openness China is implementing; and it has recently been observed that President Kim is seriously concerned about the stability of the North Korean system after his death if all power is succeeded to by his son Kim Chong-il under the present conditions.

The source said that the greatest matter of concern for President Kim at present is to bequeath his power to his son safely at any cost after he has tided over the present catastrophic economic difficulties. He then added, "President Kim, who had called China a traitor for adopting openness, himself commended China for its success in openness. This must be taken to be an enormous change."

Papers on North's Suspension of Envoy Contact

SK0611095893

[Editorial Report] The following summarizes reports carried by ROK vernacular newspapers after North Korea canceled the working-level contact for the South-North special envoy exchange scheduled for 4 November, 1993.

The moderate CHOSON ILBO in Korean on 4 November carries a 600-word article on page 4 by reporter An Hui-chang titled "Resolution Shock, North Readjusts Strategy."

The article reports that "the majority of ROK Government officials analyze North Korea's response to the UN resolution as a desperate measure to gain some time to readjust its foreign relations strategy," rather than a measure to secure a better position in the behind-the-scene negotiations with the United States.

The article says that the fact that not a single country supported it in the vote on the UN resolution has considerably shocked North Korea, however, it will be difficult for North Korea to accept the inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, which North Korea has said it has been partial.

The article deems that "North Korea thought there was little chance that our side would agree to the suspension of the Team Spirit exercise in the fourth contact for the special envoy exchange and, therefore, it postponed the contact in which it has nothing to gain by facing the South side's various demands, including the IAEA inspection."

The moderate TONG-A ILBO in Korean on 4 November carries a 600-word article on page 4 by reporter Pak Che-kyun titled "Stalling Tactic To Counter UN Resolution".

The article says there was concern that North Korea would withdraw from the United Nations as a result of the UN resolution, but North Korea chose a comparatively moderate response by rejecting the working-level contact for the special envoy exchange. The article quotes a government official concerned saying: The response is a result of not being able to find an appropriate countermeasure in time.

The article surmises that North Korea left some room for compromise in the 3 November telephone message by stating in the last part of the message "we will wait and see your side's attitude for the time being." The article notes that if North Korea meant to reject South-North dialogue, it would not have left such room.

The article continued that North Korea's pretext for rejecting the contact was the ROK defense minister's remarks, which it changed from "we intend to discuss the countermeasures on the possible military aggression by North Korea," to "we will not hesitate to take military countermeasures." The article interprets that such exaggeration means North Korea had a difficult time finding a proper pretext.

The moderate HANGUK ILBO in Korean on 4 November carries an 800- word article on page 4 by reporter Yu Sung-u titled "Delay Strategy of Special Envoy Exchange and Nuclear Discussion".

The article analyzes that North Korea did not want any development in South-North dialogue when other negotiations, including the contacts with the United States and the inspection negotiation with the IAEA, are at a standstill.

The article also reports that the opinion of the Ministry of National Unification Board, NUB, is that "North Korea postponed the working-level contact to seek a new nuclear strategy and to adjust internal opinions because the hard-liners and moderates have not come to an agreement on the UN resolution situation, which was not in North Korea's nuclear game timetable."

The article speculates that the hard-liners are opposing the exchange of special envoys because North Korea had expected that before such exchange, our side would have confirmed the suspension of the Team Spirit exercise at the Security Consultative Meeting, SCM.

The moderate CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean on 4 November carries a 600-word article on page 4 by reporter O Yong-hwan titled "Defense Strategy Using Defense Minister Kwon's Remarks."

Commenting on North Korea's distortion of Defense Minister Kwon's remarks, the article views that the reasons for rejecting the Panmunjom contact are "its intention to wait and see the result of the annual ROK-U.S. SCM regarding the Team Spirit exercise; the date for the third round of North Korea-U.S. talks not being fixed after four behind-the-scene contacts in New York; and the UN General Assembly's adoption of a resolution against North Korea."

The article also speculates that the North Korean military hard-liners may have influenced the suspension of the contact.

The pro-government SEOUL SINMUN in Korean on 4 November carries a 700-word article on page 4 by reporter Yang Sung-hyon titled "Time-Winning Strategy, Not a Flat Refusal".

The article reports that the government is quite perplexed by North Korea's cancellation of the contact, and describes the North's reaction "seemingly hard-line."

The article also reports that upon receiving the news during their meeting, ROK Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu and U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Hubbard analyzed that North Korea canceled the contact because it needed some time to adjust internal opinions.

The article says the fact that during the third contact the North side wanted to schedule the fourth contact after 5 November, when the SCM is over, supports the analysis.

The article further analyzes that "the North's reaction is in line with its own timetable" and that "its real intention will become clearer after the outcome of the U.S.-North Korea contact, which is expected to be resumed sooner or later in New York upon the request of the North side."

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean on 4 November carries a 600-word article on page 4 by reporter Song Yong-sung titled "Not Refusal But Postponement, To Earn Time in Making Nuclear Decision."

The article reports ROK Government officials estimate that North Korea is not taking Defense Minister Kwon's remarks seriously but using it as pretext for refusing the contact, and quotes an NUB official's interpretation: We have to take note of the clause "it is difficult to hold the fourth working-level contact as scheduled" from North Korea's telephone message.

The article observes that "the recent development of the situation has made North Korea adhere more to its policy to resolve all problems through negotiations with the United States, and to this end, North Korea will come back to the South-North contact at a proper time because it has to maintain a certain level of dialogue."

The article reports that North Korea-U.S. contacts up to this point have narrowed the negotiation to an agreement on routine inspections, and the question of whether to accept inspections on four nuclear facilities in Yongbyon, as requested by the United States, or two, as insisted by the North side.

The article concludes that the resumption of the special envoy contact depends on the results of North Korea-U.S. contact to be held around the end of this week in New York.

DPRK Officials Arrive for UNDP Workshop

SK0711112693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0937 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 7 (YONHAP)—Three North Korean government officials arrived in Seoul on Sunday afternoon to participate in a workshop on the United Nations project to develop the Tumen River area slated for Nov. 8-10 here.

More than 10 economic experts and government officials from five countries and the UNDP will attend the second workshop on industry and resources for development of the Tumen River area, sponsored by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Delegations from China, Russia and Mongolia and the UNDP as well as South and North Korea will discuss what is the most effective way to develop industries in the Tumen River area, which the UNDP initiated.

The first workshop was held in Helsinki, Finland in last March.

The North Korean delegation comprises Hwang Chong-nam, director of the committee for the promotion of external economic cooperation, Yi Song-tok, director of the government secretariat, and Kim Chong-yol, a researcher of the committee for the promotion of external economic cooperation.

Their visit to Seoul is attracting attention here as inter-Korean relations are currently cooled off due to North Korea's refusal to allow nuclear inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

DPRK Official Interviewed

SK0811102593 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 8 Nov 93 p 7

[Interview with an unidentified North Korean delegate to the second workshop on the UN project to develop the Tumen River by reporter Kim Chun-hyong at Seoul's Kimpo airport on 7 November—first paragraph is reporter's introduction]

[Text] Three North Korean economic officials, who will participate in the second workshop on the UN project to develop the Tumen River, arrived at Kimpo airport on 7 November. They are Hwang Chong-nam, director of a section at the Committee for Promoting External Economic Cooperation; Yi Song-tok, director of a section at the Secretariat of the State Administration Council; and Kim chong-yol, researcher at the Committee for Promoting External Economic Cooperation. The North Korean delegates, who wore a Kim Il-song badge on their coat, each carried only one small suitcase. They were received by officials from the Economic Planning Board. They looked cheerful and exchanged greetings with the ROK officials in a cheerful atmosphere, conversing about the weather. However, the North Koreans refused to answer the reporters' questions about various delicate issues, including the acute South-North relations created recently due to the nuclear issue, saying "Let us see later."

[Kim Chun-hyong] What about your prospects for the Tumen River development project?

[North Korean delegate] We will continue to discuss it. We hope that the continuation of discussions will bear a good result. I think the workshop this time will contribute to stepping up the Tumen River development project.

[Kim] What about the North Korean side's preparations for the project?

[Delegate] We have already established a plan to develop industries in the Tumen River area and have been promoting the plan without a setback. We will announce the details at the workshop.

[Kim] What do you think are the detailed measures that North and South Korea can take for cooperation in the Tumen River development project?

[Delegate] The Tumen River development project is an international project, not a project between North and South Korea.

[Kim] According to recent foreign press reports, North Korea's economic situation has deteriorated to a serious stage.

[Delegate] That has never happened. Nothing has changed.

UN Official Cited on Program

SK0811114193 Seoul YONHAP in English 1011 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 8 (YONHAP)—A U.N. official has thrown doubt on the feasibility of the Tumen Valley development program involving North Korea, China and Russia because of no Russian cooperation in the program and because the program simply expects foreign investment.

In a report on his one-month tour of the program sites to a U.N. development program-sponsored workshop held in the Ambassador Hotel here on Monday, Dr. Ian Davies of the U.N. Industrial Development Organization said whether a project of constructing a railroad linking Hunchun of China to a city of Russia will be carried out as scheduled is doubted because of no Russian cooperation in the project.

The Tumen Valley development program has no feasible industrial development project but simply expects foreign investment, he added. But he said construction projects are active in North Korea and China, such as construction of roads linking Yanjin in China to Chongjin in North Korea and Hunchun to Najin in North Korea. In addition, North Korea has a plan to expand the harbor of Najin in cooperation with a Japanese firm as part of its Najin-Sonbong area development plan.

Thai Premier Expected To Visit North Korea

SK0611031193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0110 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Bangkok, Nov. 6 (YONHAP)—Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai is expected to visit North Korea in the near future at the invitation of North Korean President Kim Il-song. A 30-minute English-language radio program of the nation and an English daily reported Friday evening that North Korean Vice Premier Chang Chol had called on Prime Minister Chuan earlier in the day and delivered the invitation, which Chuan had accepted. Chuan did not specify the date of his visit to the communist country, but said he would make the trip soon, it said.

This is his second invitation from Pyongyang. Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Standing Committee, delivered the first during a visit to Thailand last month.

North Korea is said to be doing its utmost to strengthen ties with Thailand this year by showering invitations on noted personalities from all walks of life, and many in fact have made visits to the Stalinist country.

Pyongyang, which set up a permanent embassy in Bangkok in 1991, has reportedly turned its eyes toward Southeast Asia because it is increasingly losing ground in the international community since the collapse of communism in Europe and the Soviet Union.

It is said to be depending on Thailand as a bridge to make bigger inroads into Southeast Asia since it opened a direct sea route between Pyongyang and Bangkok last April.

Chuan is said to have received an invitation from Seoul on Nov. 4, but has yet to set a date, informed sources said.

DPRK Ship Detained in Hong Kong for Debts

SK0711130893 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0805 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Correspondent Pak Tong-yong from Hong Kong]

[Text] It has been learned that the Nungnado, a 2,000-tonne North Korean freighter, was detained by Hong Kong authorities for not clearing debts and has been under detention at Victoria Port in Hong Kong for one month. This is the first time Hong Kong authorities have detained a North Korean ship by force. The Nungnado is owned by the North Korean Government.

Hong Kong officials stopped the Nungnado as it was about to leave Victoria Port, and detained it by force. They will not allow it to leave the port until it discharges its obligations.

Hong Kong's supreme court dispatched a bailiff onto the Nungnado on 6 October to detain it, and other Hong Kong officials participated in the detention. The supreme court took this measure against the North Korean ship after receiving a complaint from a Hong Kong business that North Korea had failed to pay its debts.

It was learned that the contract between North Korea and the Hong Kong enterprise included a provision that ships may be detained by force.

A reliable source said an ROK national living in Hong Kong was working for the Hong Kong enterprise.

A high-ranking official of the ROK Consulate General in Hong Kong just said he is watching the situation carefully.

DPRK Efforts To Improve Budget System Reported

SK0611024193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0207 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 6 (YONHAP)—North Korea is trying to strengthen what it calls the local budget system to prop up its rapidly deteriorating economy.

A mass rally in Pyongyang on Oct. 27 to mark the 20th anniversary of President Kim Il-song's local budget system directive, issued on Oct. 31, 1973, was attended by Vice Premier Kim Pok-sin, Local Industry Minister Kim Song-ku, Finance Minister Yun Ki-chong and Central Bank Governor Chong Song-taek, according to Seoul's official North Korea watcher, NAEWOE press. Yun told the rally that the local budget system must be developed and strengthened to stimulate North Korea's sagging provincial, city and county economies.

To maintain socialist economic management, problems related to local economies and local living standards must be resolved, and the local budget system provided "complete solutions," NAEWOE quoted Yun as stressing. He then called for the development of commerce and service industries in local economies, national saving and increased local revenue for development of the local budget system.

To help counties and cities develop their own budget systems, North Korea recently began conferring the title of exemplary city or county on those that set an example in developing a budget, and five cities and counties won this title in late October.

North Korea's local budget system actually slows development of local economies, rather than stimulating them as North Korean propaganda says.

In North Korea's planned economy, the local budget system restricts the central government's subsidies to local economic development projects and holds local governments responsible for their economic projects.

According to North Korean propaganda, the local budget system calls on local governments to spend within the limits of their revenue and produce a surplus for contribution to the central government.

Under this system, small enterprises in cities and counties are not covered by the central government's budget but by the local government's budget, and local budgets are supposed to support the central budget.

Radio Pyongyang said in a commentary aired Oct. 31 that since 1977 all cities and counties have been meeting both aims in their budget operations and even producing a surplus for contribution to the central government. In 1973, when the local budget system was implemented, 170 cities and counties received government subsidies to cover their deficits.

No free enterprise is allowed in North Korea's communist economy. Under the circumstances, it is out of the question for a small local enterprise to make money, though they are supposed to do so under the local budget system.

North Korea's local economies chiefly consist of small cottage factories, of which there are 4,000 across the country, according to North Korean media. With no subsidies from the central government under the local budget system, it is impossible for these factories to develop and contribute to the development of the local economy in view of North Korea's limited financial and industrial resources. But Radio Pyongyang said that over the 20 years since the local budget system was put into effect, local revenue has increased 2.6 times.

Dailies Comment on ROK-U.S. SCM Conference

SK0811145193

[Editorial Report] Local vernacular dailies on 5 November carry editorials commenting on the 25th ROK-U.S. annual Security Consultative Meeting, SCM, held in Seoul on 3-4 November.

Seoul TONG-A ILBO, an independent daily, carries on page 3 a 900-word editorial entitled "What the ROK-U.S. SCM Leaves," and notes both countries adopting a joint statement expressing a firm will to defend the ROK and a serious concern about North Korea's nuclear issue, the editorial says, "It is desirable for both countries to share the consensus about the issue concerning the security of the Korean peninsula and to agree to take a joint measure for the security of the Korean peninsula through deep cooperation."

Regarding the contents of the joint statement, the editorial comments, "It is worthwhile to highly evaluate the joint statement, which reaffirms not only the ROK-U.S. Military Commission's agreement on transfer of the operational command over the U.S. 7th Fleet to the commander of the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command but also the deployment of the flexible deterrence option forces to prevent a war in advance."

Commenting on the joint statement's contents on the transfer of the peacetime operational command over the ROK Army to the chairman of the ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff on the first of December 1994, the editorial says, "This is significant, because the ROK Army has regained part of the operational command over the ROK Army, which had been handed over to the commander of the UN Forces Command in July 1950. This will regain the self-respect of the ROK people and strengthen the ROK position in foreign relations."

After noting that the ROK and the United States have agreed to develop the ROK-U.S. security cooperation in a bid to contribute to improve North-South relations, the editorial says, "This is based on both countries' common consciousness that putting an end to North-South confrontation structure of the Korean peninsula will be helpful to defending common interests as well as to maintaining the stability and peace of the whole Asian-Pacific region." Noting the issues concerning North Korea, the editorial says, "It is important for the ROK and the United States to promote close cooperation and assume a firm attitude to cope with North Korea."

Seoul HANGUK ILBO, an independent daily, carries on page 3 an 900-word editorial entitled "The ROK-U.S. Security Cooperation Which Has Been Strengthened," and notes that the decision to transfer the peacetime operational command to the ROK Army agrees with the feeling of a sovereign state's people. The editorial also notes that the decision means that the ROK Army should be responsible for national defense. Noting the postponement of the decision on the discontinuation of the Team Spirit exercise, the editorial says, "This is the expression of both countries' firm will against North Korea which has continued to play a nuclear-card gamble in spite of the international pressure as shown in the resolution of the UN General Assembly." The editorial says, "Not only the confirmation of a plan to deploy the Flexible Deterrence Option Forces mainly by the U.S. Navy and Air Forces on the Korean peninsula but also the agreement to transfer, if a war breaks out, the operational command of the U.S. 7th Fleet to the ROK-U.S. Combined Command demonstrates both countries' firm will to deter a war outbreak on the Korean peninsula. This is noteworthy."

Seoul SEOUL SINMUN, a government organ, carries on page 3 an 900-word editorial entitled, "The Confirmation of the ROK-U.S. Joint Defense and 'Team Spirit' Exercise" and notes the necessity of close security cooperation and firm joint defense attitude between two countries. The editorial says, "We should highly evaluate the SCM, which consolidates the current security cooperation between the two countries and seeks a medium- and long-term way for military cooperation. After noting the contents of the agreement reached at the SCM, the editorial says, "The agreement is the expression of firm will not to tolerate any provocation by North Korea."

Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN, a pro-government daily, carries on page 3 a 900-word editorial entitled, "The ROK-U.S. Joint Countermeasure Against North Korea," and notes both countries' agreement on urging North Korea to return to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and to accept special inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency and North-South mutual nuclear inspections. The editorial says, "The defense ministers of the ROK and the United States demonstrate the firm military-security cooperative system between the two countries, by reaffirming the postponement of the two-phase withdrawal of the U.S. Forces in Korea until North Korea's nuclear suspicion is completely dissipated and by confirming the U.S. win-win strategy." Regarding the agreement on transfer of the peacetime operational command to the ROK Army, the editorial says, "This is a symbol which means U.S. trust in the ROK Army since the ROK civilian-controlled government was launched and means that the ROK should play an initiative role in defending the Korean peninsula." The editorial stresses that "No matter how firmly a friendly country makes a promise on national defense, nothing is safer than securing our own defense power."

U.S. Ambassador, NUB Minister Discuss DPRK

SK0611064893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0636 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 6 (YONHAP)—Deputy Prime Minister Han Wan-sang, saying that the patience of South Korea and the United States is running out, has urged North Korea to allow outside inspection of its nuclear facilities and resume dialogue with South Korea. Han, who is also National Unification Minister, made the remark when he met with new U.S. Ambassador James Laney during a courtesy call on Saturday morning.

Han and Laney exchanged views on ways to strengthen ties between Seoul and Washington and the North Korean nuclear issue. The two shared the opinion that North Korea has to guarantee transparency by allowing inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency and simultaneous inspections with South Korea.

Laney and Han also agreed that democracy and human rights in South Korea have made remarkable progress since President Kim Yong-sam's administration was launched in February.

Ambassador to United States Interviewed

SK0611071693 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 5 Nov 93 p 2

["Summary" of interview with Han Sung-su, ROK ambassador to the United States, by Kang Chon-sok, chief of CHOSON ILBO Political Department, on 4 November—place not given]

[Text] In connection with North Korea's nuclear issue, Han Sung-su, ROK ambassador to the United States, said on 4 November: "It is a big misjudgment for North Korea to think that its nuclear issue has been raised only by the ROK and U.S. Governments. North Korea must understand correctly the resolute atmosphere that prevails in the United Nations and the international community to deal with its nuclear issue." In an interview with Kang Chon-sok, chief of CHOSON ILBO Political Department, after the conclusion of the 25th ROK-U.S. annual Security Consultative Meeting on the afternoon of 4 November, Ambassador Han pointed out: "The film and batteries of the monitoring equipment installed in the nuclear facilities have already run out. As soon as the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] declares that the continuity of inspections has been severed, it will be inevitable that sanctions will be imposed against the North through the UN Security Council." During the interview Ambassador Han revealed his view on the overall relations between the ROK and the United States, including North Korea's nuclear issue, security relations between the ROK and the United States, and the issue of opening up the rice market. Following is a summary of the interview:

[Kang] The deadline to resolve the North's nuclear issue, which was slated for late October, has passed. What is the current situation?

[Han] The film and batteries of the monitoring equipment have already run out. Only the sealing equipment remains. Whether North Korea meddled with the sealing equipment will be the key point in judging the continuity of safety measures of the North's nuclear facilities. We can say that currently the continuity of the nuclear monitoring equipment is damaged, but it is not broken. Nevertheless, this kind of situation cannot continue. If there is no change in North Korea's attitude, the IAEA will declare that the continuity of inspections has been severed and from that time strong measures against the North through the UN Security Council will start.

[Kang] Sanctions by the UN Security Council seems to be all the more real with the sudden refusal by North Korea to hold the 4 November Panmunjom contact for the exchange of special envoys. How do you view this?

[Han] We will work to have dialogue with North Korea up to the last moment. North Korea views that its nuclear issue has been raised only by the ROK and U.S. Governments. International society, as well as the United Nations, are taking stronger measures against North Korea. North Korea must never misjudge its current situation and must recognize that our efforts for dialogue is to make North Korea understand the current situation correctly.

[Kang] How do you assess the Clinton government's diplomacy?

[Han] Clinton has given top priority to reviving the economy and only deals with foreign policy when it will effect the economic revival. Therefore, he has neglected foreign policy. The Republicans have strongly criticized this policy. The traditional "Atlanticists," who insist that maintaining the friendly relations between Europe and the United States be the basis of diplomacy, have expressed similar views. The Clinton government believes that America's future depends on the Asian-Pacific region. This means that the administration believes America's future depends on the economic dynamism of the Asian-Pacific region. This is a desirable perception. We must make efforts to ensure that this tendency is reinforced.

[Kang] How important a partner is the ROK to the United States?

[Han] U.S. Government officials have different conceptions of the ROK. Most U.S. Government officials, who personally handle U.S. policy correctly, realize the importance and development level of the ROK. People in Congress, the media, and regional cities, however, merely think Korea is a place where the Korean war broke out or where students stage demonstrations. It is very urgent to correct such a misconception.

[Kang] What are the obstacles to establishing desirable ROK-U.S. relations?

[Han] Mutual misconceptions are the biggest obstacle. Our people's perception of ROK-U.S. relations has not changed since independence or the Korean war. When I came here to the United States, I realized that the importance which the United States attaches to the ROK is startling.

[Kang] Would you briefly tell us why the United States is important to us as it relates to mapping out our state strategies and achieving national development?

[Han] After the cold war, the United States has become the only superpower in the world. The United States is a partner with which we can easily acquire information and high technology. We have no choice but to rely on the United States to a certain extent to develop our economy. Also, among the four powers in our vicinity, the United States represents a country that is a free democracy and has a market economy, the two values which the ROK treasure. The United States considers the ROK to be important because the ROK is a country where those two values are treasured.

[Kang] What are prospects for trade relations, including the opening of rice markets?

[Han] Trade conflicts are inevitable as bilateral trade expands. What is important is whether the two countries have a channel of cooperation in which they can promote cooperation to prevent trade conflicts. Such channels as the "Dialogue for Economic Cooperation," which was inaugurated last September, are important. As for rice imports, we must positively persuade rice exporters to understand how important rice is to us.

Singapore Premier Arrives for Summit Talks

SK0811074793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0713 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 8 (YONHAP)—Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong arrived in Seoul on Monday afternoon for summit talks with President Kim Yong-sam on ways to promote bilateral economic cooperation and on the situation in Northeast Asia, including North Korea's nuclear problem.

During his three-day official visit, Goh is scheduled to have a summit meeting with President Kim on Tuesday at Chongwadae and pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Hwang In-song on Wednesday before leaving for home.

With Goh's visit, Korea has a good opportunity to develop its relations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which Singapore currently leads. Ways for close cooperation in regional cooperation bodies, including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), will also be discussed in the summit.

Especially, the two countries plan to conclude a memorandum of understanding for third country training programs during Goh's visit to actively cooperate for possible joint investment in countries such as China and Vietnam.

Singaporean Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng, Minister of State for Finance and Communications Teo Chee Hean, and Minister of State for Trade, Industry and Labor Goh Chee Wee are accompanying Goh.

Wong is scheduled to meet with his Korean counterpart, Han Sung-chu, on Wednesday to sign the memorandum of understanding while the ministers of state will have a series of meetings with economic figures.

Goh Urges Business Ventures

BK0811154293 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong has called on Singapore businessmen to work with their South Korean counterparts in setting up joint ventures in third countries.

Addressing some 100 members of the Singapore community in Seoul, Mr Goh said Singapore's relations with South Korea can be enhanced in this manner.

The prime minister, who arrived in Seoul today for a three-day visit, spoke of the (?internal) opportunities in China, especially in Shandong Province for Singapore businessmen to explore together with their Korean counterparts. Mr Goh also said he looks forward to a fruitful meeting with President Kim Yong-sam tomorrow on bilateral and international matters and in particular the coming APEC summit in Seattle.

Korean-Russian Information Center Planned

SK0811134193 Seoul YONHAP in English 1155 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 8 (YONHAP)—To expedite industrial cooperation with Russia, such as exchange of technological information and joint ventures, the government will set up what it calls the Korean-Russian industrial cooperation information center at the Korea Institute of Industrial and Technological Information, according to the Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry on Monday.

The information center will gather and analyze information on the Russian economy and industries for Korean firms, while seeking prospective Russian partners for Korean firms planning to promote a joint venture in Russia.

It will be jointly run by the Korea Trade Promotion Corp., the Korea Academy of Industrial Technology and the Korea Institute of Industrial Economics and Trade.

In addition, the government will establish the Korean-Russian industrial technology commercialization task team at the Korea Academy of Industrial Technology chiefly for small and medium-sized industries planning to commercialize advanced Russian technology.

The government will also seek similar industrial cooperation with China, Australia, the United Kingdom, France and Israel, ministry officials said.

Government Studying UN Request on Army Plan

SK0811133593 Seoul YONHAP in English 1214 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 8 (YONHAP)—The government is said to be positively studying a U.N. request that South Korea participate in the organization of a U.N. standing army for its peace-keeping operations. Two U.N. officers involved in the U.N. standing army organization visited Seoul on Saturday and visited the Foreign and Defense Ministries on Monday to explain about the U.N. standing army plan.

On Tuesday, they will lecture on the plan at the Foreign Ministry's Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security.

U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has earler called for the organization of a U.N. standing army for its effective peace-keeping operations.

Kim Yong-sam To Push for OECD Membership

SK0811065993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0442 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 8 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam said Monday that now is the time for the country to resolutely cast off the affairs of the past and lay the groundwork for the future.

"I am proposing here today that the entire Korean people, in one mind, march forward for the construction of a future full of hope," Kim said.

The president delivered his upbeat message to the nation at a meeting at Chongwadae [presidential offices] of more than 300 representatives of trading firms, members of the New Economy Promotion Committee, Prime Minister Hwang In-song and economic ministers.

"We now have to turn our eyes outward, toward the world, and carry out the reform which is necessary for us to live while competing against the world," Kim said.

President Kim's statement was taken by many as an expression of his intention to push future-oriented reform and outward looking policy, switching from reform efforts aimed at wiping out the irregularities and official corruption of the past.

"Our country, which lacks natural resources, has to grow by expanding its trade with other countries," Kim said. "We have to push an externally oriented development strategy."

In order to boost Korea's international competitive strength, Kim said, the government will lower interest rates and stabilize the financial sector. It will also do its best to suppress real etate prices and cut consumer expenses.

The nation's businesses cannot compete against others in the world unless they improve the quality of their products through technological development and unless there is a strategy to open the world market for their products, Kim said.

He also said that in order to protect "our national interest" actively and for Korea to become an advanced nation, the government will work to join the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) by 1996.

Security Ministers To Convene Meeting 10 Nov

SK0911105193 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1000 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] President Kim Yong-sam will hold a security-related ministers meeting on the morning of 10 November at Chongwadae [presidential office]. During the meeting North Korea's recent moves will be analyzed and countermeasures will be discussed.

In connection with tomorrow's security-related ministers meeting, Chongwadae spokesman Yi Kyong-chae said that North Korea recently rejected all nuclear inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency, suspended the South-North working-level contacts, and the U.S.-North Korea talks is in a stalemate. He added that, therefore, an overall discussion will be held on the situation of security on the Korean peninsula at a time when channels for dialogue related to North Korea's nuclear development has been suspended.

Kim Tae-chung Reaffirms Decision To Retire

SK0611063593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0605 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 6 (YONHAP)—Former chairman of the Democratic Party Kim Tae-chung on Saturday dismissed a prediction that he will come out of retirement and run for president in 1997.

"I do not think I had made a mistake in deciding to retire from politics," Kim said. "And there will not be any change (in this decision) in the future."

Speaking to reporters at Hilton Hotel on Friday night, the veteran opposition leader ruled out the possibility of getting re-engaged in party activities or running for election.

"I have absolutely no intention to enter in politics again," he said.

Kim, who declared his retirement shortly after he was defeated in the 1992 presidential election, made the forceful denial after a Seoul National University professor predicted that the 68-year-old Kim will run for president in the next election.

Prof. Kil Sung-hum, in a paper he presented at a seminar at his university, said there was a strong possibility that Kim will run for president again.

Kil said he based his prediction on the fact that Kim still commands the unflagging support of the people in the Cho[illegible] Provinces, which translated into about 30 percent of the vote every time there was a presidential election.

There is no viable contender for president so far and President Kim Yong-sam, who defeated Kim last December, could give him tacit approval to run again in 1997, Kil said.

Kil also said Kim could carry on President Kim's reform as the two Kims share similar progressive political believes.

Kim said, however, what Kil said in his paper is but his opinion as a scholar.

"I have nothing to say about it since he has a right (to engage in) scholastic activities," he said.

DLP Said To Consider Holding Convention Early

SK0611060093 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 5 Nov 93 p 1

[By reporters Kim Kyo-chun, Yi Chong-won, and Yang Yang-sop]

[Text] It is known that on 4 November the ruling circles were examining the possibility of holding the regular national convention of the Democratic Liberation Party [DLP] earlier than originally scheduled, May 1994. If the convention is held early, it is most possible that the date will be around 25 February, the first anniversary of President Kim Yong-sam's inauguration. It is also possible that the convention will be held toward the end of January, it depends on the situation.

The idea of holding the national convention earlier is being examined by the ruling circles to lessen the increased pressure of the unstable political situation caused by prolonged unrest in the party.

According to a well-informed source, the ruling circles are drawing up a new national administration stressing economic development based on recent reform achievements. At such a time, the DLP feels it is not desirable to increase political instability caused by the conflict between factions and powers before the national congress, and has, therefore, examined the possibility of holding the national convention two or three months earlier, according to the source.

The source continued that since the DLP president has the right to convene according to the party's Constitution, there will be no problem concerning the procedure. It is also known that the cabinet reshuffle may also be postponed to coincide with the national convention, as the renewal spirit of the national administration will be reduced by half if there is a delay between the reshuffle, which is expected to be announced by the end of the year, and the national convention.

Regarding this, the source says that we are aware of the concern about the spirit-reducing effect of the reshuffle of the core members of the ruling circles and about prolonged instability in the party, if the reshuffle and the national convention are held at different times.

However, DLP Spokesman Hwang Myong-su denied that holding the national convention early has ever been discussed.

Customs To Ask U.S. To Check Korean's Account

SK0811133993 Seoul YONHAP in English 1052 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 8 (YONHAP)—The Korean Customs Administration (KCA) has decided to ask the U.S. Government to check the money that moved into and out of an account Hanhwa group Chairman Kim Song-yon opened at a U.S. bank as Kim is charged with having smuggled foreign exchange out of the country.

A KCA official said on Monday the decision was made because the prosecution had asked the KCA to request U.S. Customs authorities to examine a deposit account Kim opened at a New Jersey branch of the Midland National Bank.

U.S. Customs authorities will accept the request, he added.

The request is the first of its kind the KCA is to make to the U.S. Government for examining an individual's U.S. bank account.

Pak Chol-on Receives 2-Year Sentence for Bribes

SK0511034393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0258 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 5 (YONHAP)—Rep. Pak Chol-on was sentenced to two years in prison and fined 600 million won on Friday for accepting a 600 million-won bribe from slot-machine kingpin Chong Tok-il.

Judge Kim Hui-tae of the Seoul District Criminal Court said in handing down the sentence that, judging by the testimony of the people involved, Pak was guilty as charged.

"Although the defendant denied all charges, claiming that there were no material evidence, the court can recognize the fact that he received the money," Kim said.

The judge said he based his verdict on the trial testimony of Hong Song-ae, Chong Tok-il, a brother of Chong Tok-chin, and former Hyatt Hotel President Yi Hui-chun. Chong Tok-il testified that he had handed the money to Pak at Hong's house.

Prosecutor Hong Chun-pyo immediately protested the sentence as too lenient for the crime and said he would appeal.

Pak, a representative of the United People's Party from Taegu, had been indicted on charges of accepting 500 million won from Chong Tok-il in October 1990 at Hong's house in exchange for exerting influence over the national tax administration. He was accused of receiving an additional 100 million won on two occasions at a sauna in the Hyatt Hotel.

Pak, a relative of former President No Tae-u, was once dubbed "the crown prince of the sixth republic" and wielded enormous power under Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No.

Pak was arrested June 7 on charges of receiving bribes and the prosecution demanded a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a fine of 600 million won.

During his trial, his constituents jammed the courtroom and caused disturbances several times. They charged that Pak was a victim of "political retribution" by the administration of President Kim Yong-sam.

Country Drops in Asian Ranking for Sci-Tech

SK0811101093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0727 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 8 (YONHAP)—South Korea retreated one notch to fourth place among eight Asian nations in science and technology competitiveness last year.

The 1992 ranking, based on 1991 statistics for research and development [R&D] investment and manpower, number of patents, Nobel prize winners, business cooperation and intellectual property rights protection, appears in the latest edition of "TECHNOVATION MONTHLY," published by the Korea Association for Technical Innovation (KATI).

Japan held on to first place, followed by Singapore and Taiwan moved up one rung to third. Filling in the last four were Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Japan spent 90.33 billion U.S. dollars in 1991 on research and development, or 3.08 percent of its gross domestic product. This was 15 times the 6.34 billion dollars invested by all the other nations except for Singapore, whose data were unavailable.

A distant second was Korea with R&D investment of 3.21 billion dollars, or 1.83 percent of its GDP, followed by Taiwan with 1.69 percent at 2.66 billion dollars.

Japan had 14,100 researchers at the end of 1991, compared with Taiwan's 6,320 and Korea's 5,330.

In basic science, Japan ranked first with 69 points out of a possible 100, Singapore scored 67, and Korea was last with 40.

Japan eclipsed the competition with 46.8 million patents, followed by Korea with 6.5 million and Taiwan with 6.3 million. It also overshadowed everyone in overseas performance with 5,002,800 patents, compared with Korea's 596,000 and Taiwan's 61,000.

Value of Shift From False-Name Accounts Noted

SK0611050293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0450 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 6 (YONHAP)—The value of false-name accounts shifted to real-name accounts in the two-month period for changeover, which ended Oct. 12, totals 2,760 billion won. This amount is 97.4 percent of the 2,834 billion won in false-name accounts when the real-name financial transactions system was decreed on Aug. 12, according to the Finance Ministry's final tally on the changeover Saturday.

The Ministry had tentatively estimated the figure at 96 percent at the end of the two-month period.

Accounts still remaining in false-names number 150,738 and are worth 73,811 million won, including 7,300 accounts containing 1 million won or more for a total of 58 billion won. Most of the remaining accounts contain less than 50,000 won. Of the 58 billion won still under false names, 35 billion won is with securities houses.

Accounts shifted from borrowed to real names in the period total 3,477 billion won, compared with the tentative figure of 2,924 billion won announced at the end of the two months. This brings the total moved from false- and borrowed-name accounts to 6,237 billion won.

Korea Electric Power To Issue Global Bonds

SK0811113993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0752 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 8 (YONHAP)—Korea Electric Power Corp. [KEPCO] will become the first South Korean enterprise to issue U.S. dollar-denominated global bonds with a floatation worth 1.35 billion dollars in mid-November. According to the Finance Ministry, the bonds, which mature in 10 years, will carry an annual interest of about 6.2 percent.

KEPCO, a state-run company, will use 1.25 billion dollars of the total to repay a foreign loan, ministry officials said. The remaining 100 million dollars will be spent to purchase materials for the construction of an electricity generating plant, the officials said.

* Shift in Makeup of Public Prosecutor's Office

942C0013A Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in Korean 30 Sep 93 pp 22-24

[By reporter Chong Ung-gi]

[Text] The highest organ of law enforcement, the Public Prosecutor's Office [PPO], carried out a revolutionary "water plowing" [an expression referring to personnel changes related to the anti-corruption drive]. On 17 September, after receiving President Kim Yong-sam's approval, Minister of Justice Kim Tu-hui and Public Prosecutor-General [PG] Kim To-on, announced an unprecedented large-scale personnel action effecting the highest levels of the PPO, changing 35 of 39 senior officials nationwide from the rank of superintendent public prosecutor [SPP] and above. This action included the promotion of five people to high public prosecutor's office director [HPP] and 11 people to SPP, 16 promotees altogether.

The greatest characteristic of this PPO personnel action is that it is a large-scale generational change. The Kosi [system of state examinations eliminated in 1963] Generation is ending; the curtain is being raised full-scale on the Sasi [State law examinations, part of system of state examinations implemented in 1963] Generation. Members of the Sasi 1st and 2nd sessions moved into the mainstream of HPP, such as assistant prosecutor-general [APG], and leadership of the PPO. SSP members, having passed the Sasi, were appointed to 12 district public prosecutor's offices nationwide. An official in charge of carrying out these personnel actions, Ministry of Justice Public Prosecution Division I Director Kim Chin-hwan said, "We put emphasis on completely changing the appearance of the front lines of the PPO by achieving the regeneration of the organization through unprecedented, large-scale promotion and by replacing all 17 HPP."

Members of the Sasi 1st session were moved into place, Song Chong-ui as second-ranking APG, Chi Chang-gwon and Chong Kyong-sik as Judicial Training Institute Director and Taegu HPP. Afterwards, following the appointment of Kim Ki-su and Hwang Sang-gu, both of the Sasi 2nd session, to be the HPPs of Pusan and Kwangju, it is considered a certainty that the next PG will be someone who passed the Sasi. The 1st and 2nd sessions of the Sasi were tested in 1963. Coming into power at that time through the 5 May coup d'etat, the 3rd Republic required an increase in the number of prosecutors in connection with establishing its rule. Thus, in one year, 1963, there were four sessions of tests: the 15th and 16th sessions of the Kosi and 1st and 2nd sessions of the Sasi.

The advent of the Sasi Generation stems from the exit of the Kosi Generation. Beginning last March, immediately after the birth of a new administration stressing "reform and change," the exit of the Kosi Generation proceeded at super-high speed: after only about six months, 17 senior officials of the Kosi 13th through 16th sessions disappeared from the stage of active service. This is shocking when compared with the fact that less than ten people resigned at the beginning of the 5th Republic, which took power in an atmosphere of revolution after the 12 December 1979 coup. It is here that the frightfulness of the legitimate "civilian government" can be seen, according to a source in the PPO.

Let us look at some of the exiting personalities. As Minister of Justice Pak Hui-tae assumed office in March, Vice Minister Cho Song-uk, who tested with Minister Pak in the Kosi 13th session, left office. Soon after Minister Pak resigned due to a problem over his children's special entrance into college, PG Kim Tu-hui was appointed minister to replace him and thus left the public prosecutor's organization. Afterwards, following the selection of APG Pak Chong-chol of the Kosi 15th session as PG, Pusan's HPP Kim Kyong-Hoe of the Kosi 14th session resigned and, ahead of the personnel changes in the public prosecution's leadership, Correction Bureau director Yu Sun-sok of the Kosi 15th session and Inchon district public prosecutor's office director [DPP] Chi Hon-bom of the Kosi 16th session voluntarily resigned.

At the end of March, soon after the whirlwind of personnel changes subsided, the shock waves of the personal-assets registration came rolling in. Ranking first and second in assets from the PPO, Prosecutor-General's Office Central Investigation Division Director Chong Song-jin and Prosecutor-General's Office Felony Department Director Choi Sin-sok were sacrificed at that time. Afterwards, the unfavorable winds, which had begun to subside, again grew fierce with the May slot-machine investigation, bringing on the tremendous sufferings of Vice Minister of Justice Sin Kon, Judicial Training Institute Director Chon Chae-gi and Taejon's HPP Yi Kon-gae, who were either arrested or forced to resign on the 27th. Following this, Pusan's HPP Pyon Chae-il suddenly resigned on 29 July, just before the second round of personal-assets registrations and finally, on the 13th, immediately after assets registration, PG Pak Chong-chol resigned. Both from the same Kosi 15th session as Pak, even Seoul's HPP Kim Yu-hu and Prosecutor-General's Office General Affairs Department Director Chang Ung-su had to resign. Following the appointment of APG Kim To-on, of the Kosi 16th session, to the office of PG in the aftermath of Pak's resignation, DPPs Mun Chong-su of Inchon and So Ik-won of Suwon quit. With the resignation of HPP Choi Myong-sil, who were demoted and transferred from Taegu to Taejon, as soon as this action was announced on the 17th, the senior-official resignation crisis came to a close. Making its appearance in 1949 as a continuation of the Choson Pyonhosa Sihom [Choson Lawyer Examination], the Kosi (High Civil Service Examination, Law Department) produced 667 judicial officers during 16 sessions. Of the last session, the 16th, only two persons remain in active public service, PG Kim To-on and HPP Kim Hyon-chol.

Part of the HPP personnel actions drawing attention is the restoration of HPP Chong Kyong-sik of the Sasi 1st session and the fall of HPP Choi Myong-sil of the Kosi 16th session. A graduate of Kyongbuk High School and Koryo University and a TK (Taegu-Kyongbuk) front-runner, HPP Chong ran ahead of others from the Sasi 1st session, among other things being the first to be promoted to SPP. In July 1992, he took part in a fierce three-way competition for the position of Seoul DPP with Choi Myong-sil and Yi Kon-gae. Swept out of the competition by Yi, he became the Pusan DPP. Finally, implicated in the "Pusan Organizational Chiefs Dinner" incident occurring during the presidential election in December last year, he came one step away from loosing his post. Afterwards, with the advent of the PG Pak Chong-chol leadership, he was relegated to the less important post of Prosecutor-General's Office Criminal Trial and Civil Litigation Department Director. In the recent personnel actions, however, he was promoted to Taegu HPP, recovering without difficulty. Concerning HPP Chong's efforts to make a comeback, people close to the event view it as a case of "Sin Chiyok Anbae" [new regional distribution of power], an attempt to stimulate the moral of the declining TK (Taegu-Kyongbuk) faction, but more than this, it is because HPP Chong made tremendous efforts to save himself, according to rumor. In spite of the fact that just before his promotion, questions were raised concerning HPP Chong's experience as a National Defense Emergency Measures Committee [Kukbowi] prosecutor and as a security prosecutor, he was able to overcome this and rise again because his efforts to save himself were effective, according to opposition sources.

Meanwhile, HPP Choi Myong-sil resigned as soon as he was censured by being transferred to Taejon. At the time of the Yusin regime in 1974, he was sent out as a prosecutor for a regular court martial to handle emergency-measures violation cases and then handled the Minchong Haknyon [National Democratic Alliance of Youth and Students] Incident. A subject of investigation at that time, Democratic Party lawmaker Yi Chol and others brought this up as an objection. It is reported that this worked decisively against him. Some, however, interpret the fall of HPP Choi, who is sharp and possesses a direct personality, by linking it to the establishment of PG Kim's leadership; Choi and Kim were from the same Kosi session.

The dynamic relationship between four men from the Sasi 1st session, Song Chong-ui, Chong Kyong-sik, Chi Chang-gwon and Yi Kon-gae, is drawing attention. First of those from his session to be promoted to SPP in 1983, Taegu HPP Chong Kyong-sik almost missed being sacrificed in the elimination crisis. The first to be promoted to HPP after serving as Seoul DPP and at one time even enjoyed the prospect of becoming PG, Yi Kon-gae was judged in connection with the Slot Machine Incident the day the personnel actions were announced. On the other hand, both promoted one year late, APG Song Chong-ui and Judicial Training Center Director Chi Chang-gwon were stuck as DPPs when the other two were rising rapidly up the ranks. At one time, their hope for the future had been "dim."

Another characteristic of these personnel actions seen from the periphery of the PPO was the quickening of PK (Pusan-Kyongnam) forces and the rapid advancement of SK (Seoul-Kyonggi) personalities. Going the other direction, this is connected to the decline of the TK faction. The PK faction is a new force forming connections not only in the PPO, but in all fields, including government and economic sectors. In the case of the PPO, Minister Kim Tu-hui is a native of Kyongnam Province, although he graduated from Kyonggi High School, and PG Kim To-on comes from eastern Pusan. Thus, this tells us of the quickening of PK forces. There are presently five PK persons of SPP rank and above. However, the PK faction is still not a match for the four established factions: TK, SK, Honam, and Koryo University.

The rapid advances of the SK faction, on the other hand, are spectacular. In these personnel actions, "Personal connections such as regional and school connections were thoroughly excluded," said a PPO source. Actually, including PG Kim (Pusan), the home districts and high schools of those holding core positions within the PPO are all different: APG (Song Chong-ui, Seoul), Seoul DPP (Kim Chong-gu, Taejon), Prosecution Bureau Director (Choi Yong-gwang, Kyonggi), Central Investigation Division Director (Kim Tae-jong, Kwangju), Public Security Department Director (Choi Hwan, Chungbuk). The appointments of a Honam person to Seoul HPP (Kim Hyon-chol) and a Taegu person to Kwangju HPP (Hwang Sang-gu) are also being considered examples of the same thing. When the 40 persons ranking SPP and above are grouped by place of origin, however, it can be seen that 16 are SK people. Compared to this, there are four TK people and six each from the Honam and Koryo University factions. The selection and promotion to Prosecution Bureau Director of Choi Yong-gwang and to SPP of those of the Sasi 8th session he is connected to through Kyonggi High School, Kap Hyon-mu, An Kang-min, Choi Kyong-won and Yu Chae-song, are considered highlights of the SK faction's rise from obscurity. Of these, An and Yu took the Sasi ten-sessions, but because they were from the same high school class (Kyonggi High School 55th Class), there was great interest in whether they would be promoted. This was because, in connection with Minister Kim's public statement made before his appointment that "consideration for things such as school connections will be completely eliminated," comparatively, his classmates were sacrificed, raising expectations that one or two would suffer rejection unjustifiably. Taegu DPP Chi Chang-gwon (Sasi 1st session), promoted to Judicial Training Institute Director, and Prosecutor-General's Office Felony Department Director Choi Yong-gwang (Sasi 4th session), transferred to the important post of Ministry of Justice Prosecution Bureau Director, as classmates of Minister Kim were both cases of promotional transfer. However, in the vortex of these personnel actions, the Kyonggi High School's 55th Class experienced both joys and sorrows. Kim Yu-hu and Mun Chong-su quit and Choi Sin-sok resigned due to the personal-assets controversy. Later, Yi Kon-gae was actually arrested in connection with the Slot-Machine Incident.

In contrast, one time called the Crown Prince Group within the PPO, the TK faction is considered to have fallen, even though HPP Chong was restored, having only four persons of SPP rank or above. However, the TK faction has many people who took the Sasi later than the 11th session and since it still has a total of over seventy prosecutors—it is second in number only to the Kyonggi-High-School group—"damage recovery" is always possible, according to the analysis of people both in and outside the PPO. With the elevation of Seoul HPP Kim Hyon-chol as a result of these personnel actions, the Honam group is considered to have had an average year. It is obvious, however, that this group is disappointed over the fall of Kwangju DPP Kim Chong-gil and Seoul Third District Public Prosecutor's Office Assistant Director Sin Sung-nam, both of whom were expected, within the group, to be promoted. They are consoling themselves with the reappointment of Prosecutor-General's Office Central Investigation Department Director Kim Tae-jong and his coming to spearhead the government's anti-corruption activities.

Of particular note in these personnel actions are the fact that the PPO is trusted and popular and the promotion of Prosecution Bureau Director Kim Chong-gu, who has continually led his Sasi-session peers, to Seoul DPP. DPP Kim is looked to as the one to lead the Sasi Generation.

In connection with these personnel actions, not a few within opposition legal circles point out, "The breadth of the personnel changes was large, but there was no clear discrimination made between guilt and innocence concerning those who became the subjects of gossip due to questions about their personal assets or their involvement in government abuse of power in the past, so they are somewhat inadequate as reformist figures." Thus, the question of whether the newly reorganized PPO will have the credibility of the public depends on its law-enforcement posture in the future.

Burma

UNHCR Official Visits on Bangladesh Repatriation

Meets With Home Minister

BK0511023993 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Mr. W. Blatter, director of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], called on Lieutenant General Mya Thinn, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and minister of home affairs, at 1345 today at the Minister of Home Affairs' office. It has been learned that frank discussions were held during the meeting on the measures taken by Myanmar [Burma] and Bangladesh for the systematic repatriation of those who have fled the country.

Memorandum Signed on Refugees

BK0511145193 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] U Maung Aung, director general of the Immigration and Manpower Department [IMD] of Myanmar [Burma]; and Mr. W. Blatter, director of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] for Asia-Oceania, signed a memorandum of understanding on the repatriation of those who fled to Bangladesh from Arakan State, Myanmar, at the IMD at 1000 this morning [5 November].

Bangladesh Returns 439 Additional Refugees

BK0911061893 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0430 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] In accordance with the coordinated agreement between the two countries on the repatriation of those who illegally left Myanmar [Burma] for Bangladesh, a delegation led by camp supervisor Mr. Mahmud Habib Butanan from the country on the other side transferred 439 returnees from 98 households to our Kanyinchaung Reception Center on the morning of 6 November. The returnees were brought in on nine motorboats.

As of 6 November, a total of 45,618 people from 10,199 households had been repatriated since the first repatriation took place on 22 September 1992.

Minister, Delegation Return From Bangkok

BK0411141293 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] A Myanmar [Burmese] delegation led by U Khin Maung Yin, minister of construction, and a member arrived back in Yangon [Rangoon] this evening from Bangkok, Thailand, after attending the ministerial conference on urban matters sponsored by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific.

Insurgents, Dependents Surrender in Bangkok

BK0411151893 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Private Myo Oo, 21, son of U Khin Maung Latt of 1st Street, Thirimarlar Ward, Ye, and Pvt. Myint Soe, 27, son of U Mya Aung of Aungthiri Sector, Peinnethut Ward, Mudon, both from the Alliance for Democratic Solidarity, Union of Burma [ADSB] terrorist organization—which was formed at the Thai-Myanmar [Burma] border—together with Myint Soe's wife Ma Thi Thi Myint and son Htein Lin Soe surrendered through the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, on 27 October.

After the 1988 incident and through persuasion of friends, Myo Oo fled to the Three Pagoda Camp and joined the NDF [National Defense Force] led by Thanmani Bo Khin Maung as a private. He attended the explosive training course given by foreign trainers. When the NDF was split into Thanmani Bo Khin Maung and U Sein Mya factions in December 1989, he joined U Sein Mya's People's Defense Force. In accordance with U Sein Mya's order in November 1990, he went to Southern Ye to escort expatriate Sein Win's group. He could not withstand the poverty in the jungle so he went to Bangkok and lived on the stipend granted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Myint Soe joined the NDF and at the time the organization split in two he was active in Southern Ye with Secretary Dr. Myint Swe. He later went to Bangkok, married Ma Thi Thi Myint, who was working in Bangkok, and had a son.

While they were in the jungle they discovered that armed struggle would not prevail so they moved to the other side of the country. There they faced lots of difficulties, realized their wrongdoings, and decided to surrender.

NCGUB Official Urges Convention Boycott

BK0611034493 Oslo Democratic Voice of Burma in Burmese 1430 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Report on a telephone interview with Dr. Sein Win, prime minister of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, in New York, by correspondent Ko Htaik Thu Naing; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Htaik Thu Naing] Listeners: A delegation led by Dr. Sein Win, prime minister of the National Coalition Government [NCGUB], is currently at the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The Democratic Voice of Burma interviewed the prime minister by telephone. The prime minister first explained the objectives of his visit:

[Sein Win] One of our objectives in being here is related to the United Nations resolutions passed in 1991-92 on human rights violations and problems in Burma. The resolutions called for honoring the results of the 1990 elections; transferring power to the representatives elected by the people; freeing all political prisoners, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi; ending human rights violations against indigenous people; and solving correctly the problem of refugees who have fled to neighboring countries. What we have seen is that the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] military government has not properly implemented any of the resolutions. They give the impression that they are implementing the resolutions, but in reality they are not being implemented. They continue to violate human rights while the people continue to face general hardships—social, political, and economic hardships. On behalf of the people, we will inform the United Nations that the provisions contained in the resolution are not being implemented and point out the need for more pressure to implement the UN resolutions.

Another major objective is to point out that the National Convention held by the SLORC is not in accordance with the people's wishes and is not being held in accordance with democratic practices. The convention is being held to perpetuate SLORC's power. We will urge the international community not to recognize this National Convention.

[Htaik Thu Naing] Dr. Sein Win continued to explain the objectives of his visit:

[Sein Win] In our efforts to obtain international support and encouragement, we have held talks with many democratic countries. These countries have accepted our explanation and expressed their understanding and sympathy for the aspirations of the people of Burma.

We will continue our struggle until there is genuine democracy and human rights in Burma. We will present the true situation to Burma at the UN General Assembly and work for harsher and more correct resolutions and more pressure from the United Nations.

[Htaik Thu Naing] When asked how the prime minister views the U.S. Government's attitude toward the Burmese democratic forces and its foreign policy toward the SLORC, Dr. Sein Win answered:

[Sein Win] President Clinton's administration had announced that it will review its policy toward Burma. Although the new policy has not been announced, we hope that it will promote democracy and human rights in Burma, as well as the people's freedom.

According to a statement released by the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee on 3 November, the committee sent a signed letter to President Clinton. The letter states the hope that the new policy will respect and recognize the democratic movement in Burma and that it will apply pressure for the emergence of a genuine democratic government, in accordance with the wishes of the people.

We believe that the new U.S. policy will contribute to the democratic movement and the people's struggle for democracy and human rights.

[Htaik Thu Naing] When asked what kind of message the prime minister would like to pass on to the Burmese people, the prime minister said:

[Sein Win] I would like to tell the party and political leaders, the general public, and parliamentary representatives in Burma that this is a very crucial time for them. It has become necessary to oppose resolutely the National Convention held by the SLORC. In a democratic system, sovereign power lies with the people. The SLORC, which snatched sovereign power from the hands of the people, is holding the National Convention to perpetuate its power. They already laid down their principles at the National Convention. We already know that these principles will not bring about democracy. Therefore, the time has come for the political leaders, political parties, and parliamentary representatives to take a resolute stand, which is in accordance with the pledge we gave during the elections. We urge the political leaders and delegates to take a clear stand at this time by boycotting the SLORC's convention.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Iraqi Assemblyman Meets House, Senate Heads

JN0611172093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 6 Nov (INA)—[Iraqi] National Assembly Speaker Muhammad Mahdi Salih met with Malaysian House of Representatives Speaker Mohamed Zahir Ismail in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Discussion during the meeting dealt with bilateral relations between the the Iraqi National Assembly and the Malaysian House of Representatives and ways to promote them. Discussions also dealt with ways of promoting economic and industrial relations and the exchange of firms and expertise.

The National Assembly speaker discussed in detail the latest developments concerning Iraq's commitment to UN Security Council resolutions and the destructive results of the iniquitous blockade imposed on its people.

For his part, the Malaysian House of Representatives speaker stressed his country's rejection of U.S. interference in Iraq's domestic affairs. He said this interference contravenes the UN Charter.

Sa'di Mahdi Slaih also met with Fadi Filo [name as received], president of the Malaysian Senate, yesterday. They discussed relations between Iraq and Malaysia and ways of promoting them.

The Malaysian official affirmed his country's rejection of the decision to ban Iraqi flights in northern and southern Iraq and interference in Iraq's domestic affairs.

No Protest on Detained Chinese Fishermen

BK0811105593 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 6 Nov 93 p 8

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Fri.—Malaysia has not received any protest note from Beijing on the reported detention of fishermen from China.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today that so far he had also not received any information on their detention.

Abdullah was commenting on a report that China had protested to Malaysia over the detention of its fishermen in Malaysian waters recently. He said Malaysian authorities would detain foreign fishermen only if they encroached into Malaysian waters.

China's Foreign Ministry had issued a statement saying it deeply regretted Malaysia's decision to arrest a Chinese fishing vessel and try its crew.

The statement said that the Suiyu 116 was detained on Aug. 5 "in China's traditional fishing grounds" and that a Malaysian court arbitrarily passed a ruling on the crew. It said Kuala Lumpur's actions had been in "disregard of the repeated representations from the Chinese side."

"We hereby express our deep regret," said the statement which was published by official newspapers.

Beijing did not specify the exact area where the ship was detained.

Relations With South Africa Reestablished

BK0711131293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1101 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov 8 (AFP)—Malaysia said Monday it was reestablishing diplomatic relations with South Africa, severed more than three decades ago because of Pretoria's apartheid policy.

"Both countries express their confidence that the development of relations between the two governments will contribute towards the promotion of international cooperation and world peace," the Malaysian foreign ministry said in a statement.

Kuala Lumpur lifted trade and economic sanctions against Pretoria in September following a South African legislation establishing a Transitional Executive Council towards a non-racial democracy.

Officials said Malaysia opened air links last year and allowed free travel between the peoples of the two countries in 1991 after South African President F.W. de Klerk announced he was scrapping apartheid.

South Africa's first nonracial elections is scheduled on April 27 next year.

Joint Military Exercise With Thailand Begins

BK0811140093 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0725 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Alor Setar, Malaysia, Nov 8 (OANA/BERNAMA)—The joint operation between Malaysian and Thai armed forces will continue although the two countries (?are) no longer facing communist threat. Commander of Malaysian Army Corps Lt. Gen. Abu Samah Abu Bakar said the two armed forces would undertake other activities along their common border in the interest of both countries, especially in their economic and social development.

The existing cooperation should continue for the benefit of both countries, he said when launching the Thamal (?tank) exercise between Malaysian and Thai armies at [word indistinct] camp here Monday.

He said the joint operation could be continued in other forms, like strategic, procedure, and communication exercises.

More than 300 army personnel from sargeant and [word indistinct] from both countries are taking part in the exercise which ends on Thursday. [sentence as received]

Singapore

Council Outlines Economic Cooperation Areas

BK0811110393 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 8 Nov 93 p 40

[Text] The Singapore-Shandong Business Council (SSBC) has at its inaugural meeting identified five areas for economic cooperation, including the processing of meat, fruits and aquatic products in the Chinese province.

The other areas involve promoting exports from the province to international markets promoting foreign direct investments to upgrade Shandong-based enterprises; developing its transportation and building materials industries; and promoting tourism there.

In line with these objectives, the council will exchange economic related information periodically, and look into publishing a directory of major enterprises in Shandong and a guide to trade and investment there, it said in a statement yesterday.

The inaugural meetings of the SSBC were held in the cities of Zibo, Weifang and Yantai in Shandong Province from Nov 4 to 6. They were co-chaired by the Political Secretary to the Prime Minister, Mr Tang Guan Seng, and Shandong's vice-governor, Mr Song Fatang.

Council members also visited some enterprises and development zones in Jinan, Zibo, Weifang, Longkou and Yantai and held discussions with government officials as well as entrepreneurs in these cities, the statement added.

To coordinate the activities of the council, it was decided that secretariats be set up in the offices of the Singapore Trade Development Board and the General Office of the Shandong Provincial Government.

SSBC's next meeting will be held in Singapore in November next year. Before that, its executive committee will, however, meet in Shandong in April next year.

In its statement, SSBC said its members agreed that there was potential for cooperation between Singapore and Shandong.

Singapore's strengths are in administration and technological know-how, while Shandong has rich natural resources, abundant human resources, and a diversified economy.

"Furthermore, a mutual understanding was also reached on information exchange between Singapore and Shandong, manpower training, and the formation of an investment holding company by the private sector," it said.

Shandong, which is located along China's northern-eastern coast, is the country's third most populous city with 86 million [figure as published] people.

Cambodia

Sihanouk To Remain in Hospital for 7 Months

BK0711160093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1053 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Beijing, Nov 7 (AFP)—Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk, recovering here after surgery to remove a cancerous tumor, will be unable to return to his homeland for some seven months, a statement from his Beijing office said Sunday.

"His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk remains and will remain hospitalized until the end of his treatment—chemotherapy and radiotherapy—which is to say until May or June 1994," the statement said.

Chinese doctors operated on Sihanouk, 71, on October 7 and removed a malignant tumor from near his prostate, just two weeks after his return to the throne. The new announcement indicated the king's cancer was worse than originally thought. However, it said treatment also included traditional Chinese methods and expressed complete confidence in the Chinese doctors and equipment—and the king's recovery.

"In May or June 1994, His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk will undoubtedly return to Cambodia to once again actively serve the homeland, the religion, the nation and the Cambodian people," the statement said. It said Sihanouk was still "constantly" following developments in Cambodia.

The king is receiving visitors from his hospital in Beijing, where he also maintains a residence.

The new Cambodian government visited him here last week to obtain his approval. He also accepted a courtesy call from Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen on his birthday.

Sihanouk Decrees New Title to Ranariddh

BK0911095593 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Royal Decree:

I, Norodom Sihanouk, king of the Kingdom of Cambodia,

Realizing that Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh has led the movement of the nationalists and Sihanoukists to struggle valiantly with loyalty and impartiality and achieved unity and national independence for the Cambodian nation and motherland,

Realizing that the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC] Party under the sublime leadership of Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh has braved all kinds of obstacles; particularly, it has been very patient in upholding the spirit of making great sacrifices and lofty patriotism to enable the king to smooth the settlement of vital national problems in the final months of May, June, July, August, and September 1993 so as to save peace and achieve the common success of the Cambodian people; that is, the most modern liberal democratic system which is the decisive factor for national reconciliation and Cambodia's rebirth,

Realizing that Prince Kromluong and the FUNCINPEC Party have made great contributions to and skillfully fulfilled their tasks in response to the ultimate aspiration of the entire Cambodian people and have given flawless and due justice to the throne by giving the Cambodian motherland its old status as the Kingdom of Cambodia,

Appoints Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh to the title of Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk

North Korean Premier, Delegation on Visit

DPRK Delegation Arrives

BK0911063993 Phnom Penh AKP in English 0443 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Phnom Penh AKP November 8—A high-level delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea led by its prime minister, Kang Song-san, arrived here yesterday afternoon for a week-long official visit to Cambodia.

The North Korean delegation's visit is made at the invitation of the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and at the time when the Cambodian people have been celebrating the 71st birthday of King Norodom Sihanouk Varaman and the 40th anniversary of the national day.

Prime Minister Kang Song-san is the second senior official of the Asian nations after Lao Premier Khamtai Siphandon to visit Cambodia since the promulgation of the new Constitution and the formation of the Royal Government in the country.

Kang Song-san and his party were greeted at Pochentong Airport by a guard of honour, First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Second Prime Minister Hun Sen, other Cambodian officials and members of diplomatic corps accredited in Cambodia.

The North Korean leader attended a dinner hosted by the leaders of the Royal Government before holding an official talks with them today.

He is to attend the celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the independesce day and to visit the national museum in Phnom Penh and the Angkor Wat complex in Siem Reap Province, some 300 km northwest of Phnom Penh.

He is scheduled to pay a courtesy visit to Chea Sim, acting head of state and chairman of the National Assembly, before leaving Cambodia.

AFP on Delegation's Arrival

BK0711145093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1024 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 7 (AFP)—North Korean Prime Minister Kang Song-san arrived in Cambodia Sunday for a week-long official visit.

Kang Song-san was welcomed at the airport here by a guard of honour, co-premiers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, government officials and diplomats. But only the ambassadors from Asian countries turned out to welcome the premier of the closed communist state, their Western counterparts were conspicuously absent.

Kang Song-san and his delegation will attend the November 9 celebrations to mark the 40th year of Cambodian independence.

"North Korea is very keen to pay a visit as we celebrate independence day to show that they are with us and that they are the closest friend of King Sihanouk," Information Minister Ieng Mouli said.

Banners proclaiming "Long live Cambodian-Korean friendship" were strung up on the road into the city from the airport.

Head of State King Norodom Sihanouk is a lifelong friend of North Korean leader Kim Il-Song, and he maintains a palace in Pyongyang, which he visits frequently. The king's friendship was the reason behind the government's recent decision not to open diplomatic relations with South Korea.

During his visit the Korean prime minister will hold talks with the co-premiers and will discuss granting military assistance to the Cambodian armed forces, a government official said.

Kang Song-san and his 20-strong delegation will also pay a visit to the world famous temples of Angkor Wat in northwestern Siem Reap province, the official said.

Premier Meets With Ranariddh

BK0811161093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1418 GMT 8 Nov 93

[By Kevin Barrington]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 8 (AFP)—Cambodia's international standing and its relations with the United States would not be adversely affected by boosting bilateral ties with communist North Korea, co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh said Monday.

The prince was speaking after a two and a half hour meeting with North Korean Premier Kang Song-san who is on a week-long official visit to Cambodia. The two sides discussed bilateral cooperation and the communist state promised agricultural assistance to Cambodia, Prince Ranariddh said. The prince said military assistance was not on the agenda despite earlier predictions from other government officials that it would be.

The prince acknowledged that Washington was embroiled in a heated dispute over the inspection of the closed off communist state's nuclear facilities but he said he did not foresee any problems with the United States arising out of the bilateral coopertion.

"It is the question between two sovereign states, the Kingdom of Cambodia and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea," the prince said. "I think that we don't get involved in any American internal affairs."

But the dispute over inspection of the nuclear facilities and the possibility of UN sanctions being imposed on North Korea was raised during the meeting, he said.

"They (the Korean delegation) said simply that the UN should let the United States and North Korea continue their talks because they said this matter has to be resolved between the (two) countries. We just listened to them," the prince said.

High level talks between the United States and North Korea on the nuclear issue collapsed recently.

The North Korean premier and his delegation left the meeting without commenting to the press.

North Korea's problematic relations with the United States and other Western countries were reflected in the turn-out to welcome Kang Sunday.

Although the ambassadors from Asian countries were present at the airport, their Western counterparts were absent. But Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Uch Kim-an, speaking before the two sides met for the talks, said that the problem over the nuclear sites and the current troop build-ups within North Korea were separate issues which had nothing to do with the visit to Cambodia.

"What we are doing is playing host to one of our friendly neighbours, it is our duty," he said.

Information Minister Ieng Mouli also said relations with the United States would not be adversely affected by any offers of assistance.

"I think that the U.S. knows that we have traditional relations with North Korea," Ieng Mouli said.

Prince Ranriddh also spoke of "special relations" between the two countries.

Head of State King Norodom Sihanouk is a lifelong friend of North Korean leader Kim Il-song and he maintains a palace in Ponygang, which he visits frequently.

The king's tough corps of bodygaurds was a gift from Kim and their mutual friendship was the reason behind the government's recent decision not to open diplomatic relations with South Korea.

Kang and his delegation will attend Tuesday's celebrations to mark the 40th year of Cambodian independence.

Chea Sim Receives Thai Delegation 6 Nov

BK0711073693 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Kingdom of Cambodia's National Assembly, received a Thai parliamentary delegation led by H.E. Krasae Chanawong, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, in Phnom Penh on the afternoon of 6 November. Also present were H.E. Loy Sumchheang and H.E. Son Soubert, respectively first and second vice chairmen of the National Assembly, and other National Assembly members.

On behalf of the National Assembly and the Royal Government of Cambodia, H.E. Chea Sim cordially welcomed the Thai delegation's visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia, saying the visit at this juncture would further promote the good relations between the two countries.

H.E. Krasae Chanawong said he, the Thai MP's, and the Thai parliament speaker enthusiastically welcomed the election of H.E. Chea Sim as the chairman of the Kingdom of Cambodia's National Assembly. He added that at an appropriate time in the near future, the Thai parliament speaker would invite H.E. Chairman Chea Sim to pay an official, friendly visit to the Kingdom of Thailand so as to strengthen and expand the relations of friendship between the two neighboring nations and the two governments.

National Assembly Chairman H.E. Chea Sim replied that he would accept the invitation.

Indonesian Military Chief Arrives for Visit

BK0811151493 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] A delegation of the Indonesian Ministry of National Defense headed by Armed Forces chief General Faizal Tanjung arrived in the morning of 8 November at Pochentong International Airport where it was welcomed by His Excellency [H.E.] General Ke Kimyan, chief of the General Staff of the Khmer Royal Armed Forces; H.E. Uch Kim-an, state secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and several generals from the Ministry of National Defense.

Also on hand were Gen. (Yusuf Wandi), commander of the Indonesian Battalion in the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] forces attached to the Kingdom of Cambodia; a representative of the Indonesian ambassador; and several military attaches.

During his official visit, Mr. Faizal Tanjung will inspect the Indonesian UNTAC battalion in Cambodia and will attend the celebrations of our 40th national independence day.

Indonesia

Suharto Meets Philippines Talks Participants

BK0811110993 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] The outcome of talks between the Philippine Government and the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] was reported to President Suharto by the participants in the talks at the Bina Graha presidential office in Jakarta this morning. The report was delivered by chief Philippine Government delegate Manuel Yan, MNLF chief Nur Misuari, and Mohamed Mochsin, deputy secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], all accompanied by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas.

Speaking to reporters, Alatas said another round of talks will be held in mid-February. During the next 90 days, the two sides will give the Committee on Joint Action and Liaison time to formulate basic regulations on implementing the cease-fire agreement. An ad hoc committee will formulate ways to implement the Tripoli Agreement.

According to Alatas, President Suharto stressed the importance of maintaining national unity and integrity when he spoke to his guests. The president also related Indonesia's own experience, where national stability has been given strong emphasis in order to implement national development. The president also congratulated the peace talks participants and expressed his hope that the peace process will continue until a comprehensive settlement is reached. Meanwhile, the participants and the ICO deputy secretary general expressed their appreciation to the Indonesian Government for its efforts to host the talks.

Dailies on Decision To Attend APEC Meeting

BK0811112993 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 8 Nov 93

[From the press review]

[Text] ANGKATAN BERSENJATA supports the outcome of the talks between President Suharto and Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, who have agreed to attend an informal summit meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] in Seattle on 19-20 November. The daily gives this support because it believes that APEC can be developed into a grouping which benefits its member countries. Indonesia and Singapore even share similar positions in coping with international trade and investment issues, which will be incorporated into an APEC declaration.

Sharing ANGKATAN BERSENJATA's views, KOMPAS even goes on to stress the importance of the upcoming Seattle meeting in view of the fact that influential heads of government from the Asia-Pacific region will attend it. Besides, there is still another interesting opportunity, namely the actual cooperation among APEC member countries, which will develop into a positive model for cooperation among countries with different levels of socioeconomic prosperity.

Explorations in Timor Gap Show Potential

BK0811125393 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0950 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Sydney, Nov. 8 (OANA-ANTARA)—Oil and gas explorations in the Timor Gap under the joint venture of Indonesia and Australia since 1991 have shown potential, said Minister of Mines and Energy I.B. Sujana.

The long term prospects for oil exploration is encouraging, he told ANTARA here over the weekend after attending the annual meeting of the council for care of the Timor Gap joint exploration in Darwin, North Australia.

Based on an agreement between both countries, the area of exploration which is located between the Timor Island and North Australia was divided into three operation zones, namely Area A for joint exploration by Indonesia and Australia, Area B by Australia, and Area C by Indonesia. Work on Area A started in February 1991 and is under the supervision of a joint authority based in Darwin.

Mining ministers from both countries are required to attend its annual meeting to evaluate the production process.

Sujana headed the Indonesian Joint Authority session. The Australians were led by its environment and natural resource minister Michael Lee.

A total of 14 oil blocks have been discovered in area A of which 11 are being extensively employed, Sujana said.

A proposal by East Nusatenggara administration to base the office in Kupang could not be approved due to the lack of facilities, including entertainment, lodgings, a pipe water system, and a good supply of food, he said.

Before returning home, the minister was to observe Australian technology in exploring the open coal mines in New South Wales and gold mining in the interior of West Australia near the city of Perth. He said he planned to invite the gold miners to Indonesia to explore gold deposits in the eastern parts of the country.

Laos

Thai Princess Arrives for Visit 9 Nov

BK0911090793 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] This morning, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon of the Kingdom of Thailand, arrived in Vientiane from Bangkok by a special royal plane for a six-day private visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]. The royal plane landed at Wattai International Airport at 0945. Upon her arrival, her royal highness the princess was accorded an honorable welcome by Somsavat Lengsavat, minister of foreign affairs, and his wife; Bouason Bouppһavan, deputy minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office; Thongmani Thiphommachan, deputy governor of Vientiane Municipality; and Khamphai Bouppha, chairman of the Lao-Thai Friendship Association; along with other dignitaries. Bounkeut Sangsomsak, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the LPDR to the Kingdom of Thailand, and his wife; and Somphan Kokilanon, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Laos, and his wife, together with embassy staff members, were also on hand to welcome her royal highness at the airport.

Later, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon left Wattai Airport by royal car for Inpeng temple to hold a traditional Kathin ceremony of offering yellow robes to Buddhist monks. Her royal highness was welcomed at the temple by Boun-gnang Volachit, governor of Vientiane Municipality, and a large crowd of Vientiane residents who also joined her royal highness in the traditional Kathin ceremony on this occasion.

Later, at 1115, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon called on His Excellency [H.E.] Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the LPDR, at the Ho Kham Hall of the Presidential Office. At 1150, H.E. Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the LPDR, paid a courtesy call on her royal highness at the residence in the government's guest house.

This afternoon, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon is scheduled to visit Vientiane Province. As is known, in a private visit to Laos last year, her royal highness held the traditional Kathin yellow robe offering ceremony at Ongteu and That Louang Neua temples in Vientiane capital.

President Sends Greeting to Cambodian King

BK0911051793 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Greetings message from Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk of the Kingdom of Cambodia; dated 9 November]

[Text] On the celebration occasion of the 40th anniversary of the independence day of the Kingdom of Cambodia, on behalf of the Lao people and my own name, I have the honor to convey to your majesty and all Cambodian people warm greetings and best wishes.

Throughout the past 40 years, the Cambodian people have passed through many tortuous historic periods. They have now enjoyed the fruitful success of the process of peace and national conciliation. This success has resulted from your majesty's wisdom and competence and the joint efforts of the various factions in Cambodia and support from the world community. The Lao people hope that the fraternal Cambodian people will achieve new success in rehabilitating and rebuilding the country to be ever prosperous. I am firmly convinced that the time-honored traditional relations of friendship between the two peoples of Laos and Cambodia will be further promoted and expanded for the benefits of our two neighboring countries as well as the interest of peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation in this part of the world.

On this glorious occasion, I wish your majesty long life and wish the Cambodian people happiness and prosperity.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Cambodia

BK0911063393 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] An agreement on economic, scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation between the governments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] and the Kingdom of Cambodia was signed in Phnom Penh, capital of the Kingdom of Cambodia, on 7 November. Signing for the LPDR Government was His Excellency Somsavat Lengsavat, foreign affairs minister, and signing for the Cambodian side was Prince Norodom Sirivut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and international relations.

The agreement stipulates the exchange of vocational students of senior high schools between the two countries, the exchange of training of cadres of different services, the setting up of committees to study amd work out plans to improve and build Route 13 linking Vientiane and Phnom Penh capitals through Laos' Champassak Province and Cambodia's Stung Treng Province. It also calls for cooperation in cross-border transit transportation in all water, land, and air routes, including the use of ports in Cambodia. The agreement specifies cooperation in preserving environments, including in the framework of the International Mekong Committee. The two sides have also agreed to cooperate in expanding the civil aviation service of the two countries.

In implementing, the governments of the LPDR and the Kingdom of Cambodia will instruct concerned ministries and organizations of their respective countries to hold consultations on means and ways to put the agreement into actual practice immediately after its signing.

Assembly Chairman Leaves for SRV 8 Nov

BK0811112593 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] This morning, a high-level delegation of the National Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] led by Saman Vi-gnaket, chairman of the National Assembly, left by special plane for the SRV for an official friendship visit at the invitation of Nong Duc Manh, chairman of the SRV National Assembly. The visit will be from 8 to 14 November. The purpose is to strengthen the special solidarity and all-around cooperation between the legislative assemblies of the two countries.

During the visit, the Lao delegation will exchange experiences with the Vietnamese side on the development and training of legislative technicians. The LPDR National Assembly delegation is also scheduled to visit some economic, cultural, and social establishments in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and Hue.

An official ceremony to see the delegation off was held at the National Assembly hall. Attending the ceremony were the National Assembly vice chairmen—Khambou Sounisai and Vongphet Saikeu-yachongtoua—along with members of the Standing Committee, members of the National Assembly, and many high-ranking cadres concerned. Bui Van Thang, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the SRV to the LPDR, was also present.

President Receives Hanoi Delegation 4 Nov

BK0911032893 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Yesterday, at Vientiane's Ho Kham Hall, Nouhak Phoumsavan, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee Political Bureau and president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, received a courtesy call from a delegation from Hanoi led by Pham The Duyet, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the Hanoi party committee. The Hanoi delegation is currently on an official visit to Laos. The visit, scheduled for 4 to 9 November, is being made at the invitation of the party and administrative committees of Vientiane Municipality.

On this occasion, Nouhak Phoumsavan welcomed the Hanoi delegation's visit to Laos. The visit, he said, has contributed significantly to strengthening the special solidarity and all-around cooperation between the governments of Laos and Vietnam, in particular between the two capitals—Vientiane and Hanoi. Nouhak Phoumsavan also reiterated continual consultations and further development and strengthening of the already close cooperation between the two capitals.

The head of the Hanoi delegation thanked Nouhak Phoumsavan and the leading cadres of Vientiane Municipality for the warm welcome accorded him and his delegation. He also expressed satisfaction with the increasing enhancement and development of friendship and cooperation between the two countries as well as between the two capitals.

Report on German Aid for Development Projects

BK0611115993 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] On 3 November, Mrs. Khempheng Phonsena, vice chairman of the Planning and Cooperation Committee, on behalf of the Lao Government; and Claus Soenksen, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], jointly signed an agreement on German development specialists working in the LPDR. According to the agreement, the Federal Republic of Germany will provide facilities for its experienced development officials to work in cooperation with Lao technicians in developing the LPDR economy and society. The German officials will particularly help Laos train professionals and promote the development of human resources as well as development in the technical field.

In 1993, the Federal Republic of Germany granted aid worth some 10 million marks—German currency—to the LPDR for implementing the rural telecommunications project. It also granted aid to the LPDR for implementing other development projects—the Bokeo provincial development project, including technical cooperation in various fields, worth eight million marks; the Nam Ngum resources preservation project, worth three million marks; and the afforestation project in Vientiane and Xieng Khouang Provinces, worth five million marks. Also in 1993, the Federal Republic of Germany granted aid worth more than five million marks to the LPDR for implementing the food project in Sing District, Luang Namtha Province, which included providing farm tools and foodstuffs to Lao people, constructing hospitals and schools, and aid in the form of necessary construction materials. The Federal Republic of Germany has also given financial assistance totaling one million marks to Laos for surveys for afforestation work in the Bolovens Plateau and for fundamental education in the public health field. The total value of aid in various fields given by the Federal Republic of Germany to the LPDR in 1993 amounted to 23.6 million marks, or U.S.$40.12 million [all figures as heard].

Thongphachan Sonnasin, chief of office of the Planning and Cooperation Committee; and Dr. (Lloyd Wolf), chief of the Asian Affairs Department attached to the German Foreign Economic Cooperation Ministry, jointly signed the memorandum on the German aid to Laos for 1993 in a ceremony held on the evening of 3 November.

Khamphoui Keoboualapha Report: 8th Installment

BK0511115593 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 18 Oct 93 pp 3, 4

[Eighth and final installment of "report" by Deputy Prime Minister Khamphoui Keoboualapha to the Second Ordinary Session of the Third National Assembly held in Vientiane on 27 September, titled: "The Status of the Implementation of the 1992-93 Socioeconomic Development Plan and the Duties and Orientation of Tasks for the 1993-94 Fiscal Year"]

[Text] 8. The Science, Technology, and Environment Sector:

—To adopt policies on science and technology and the environment; to create a strategic plan to protect and preserve natural resources; to devise rules and regulations on the introduction of technology into the country from abroad and regulations on copyrights, trade marks, and other rights; to study certain work which is necessary for production; for example, rice strains and saplings of priceless timber; to improve the quality of some industrial trees and domestic animals; to study how to produce fertilizer from raw materials locally available and from trash; to study how to use solar power as energy; to study technology on water treatment and waste disposal; to pay attention to providing services on the data of natural resources and information on science and technology and on the registration of trade marks and intellectual property; and to translate technology into practice in production.

—To coordinate and divide work among the services concerned so as to avoid duplication and waste of money in conducting experiments, researches, and studies.

9. The Education Sector:

—To continue expanding and improving primary schools in remote and inaccessible areas so as to have adequate facilities for schooling; to adopt regulations on compulsory education at the primary level; to continue improving and raising the quality of education by reforming curricula and improving teachers training schools; to organize training for teachers and to develop the teachers training curriculum and in-service programs; to continue improving the teaching methods and printing and distributing textbooks to all pupils and students; to continue cooperation with foreign countries to develop and improve informal school programs in mountainous regions with our people taking the lead; to build boarding schools for children of the minority people in some provinces; to promote the expansion of private education both in the formal education and vocational fields; to continue improving and raising the status of the Dong Dok teachers training college into a university; to make preparations to build one of the three [new] universities with Vietnamese cooperation; and to improve the existing vocational schools and universities regarding their study and teaching techniques and management.

—To coordinate with the ministries concerned in providing professional training to meet the needs of various projects and the grass-roots level, such as villages.

Approximately 9.05 billion kips will be invested in the education sector, which is equivalent to 7.4 percent of the total state investment.

10. The Sports and Gymnastics Sector:

—To restore, improve, and promote the physical education and sports system for the masses, for example at schools and educational institutions; to promote mass sports movements for health, especially among youths; to continue building the sports complex in Pakse in preparation for the national sports competition in Champassak Province in 1994; to improve the national stadium in Vientiane and sports facilities in other places; to pay attention to restoring and upgrading many sports federations to be functional as usual so as to once again improve each sport discipline; and to adopt needed regulations for ensuring the management and raising the quality of sports work.

11. The Public Health Service:

—To implement the direction of tasks in the public health service and to fulfill the motto of the WHO, which says: "Health for Everyone."

—To pay more attention to prevention than cures, especially among people in the countryside; to extensively expand and improve the quality of health care movements, especially mother and child care; to educate people on birth spacing; to improve and expand grass-roots public health networks, primarily into remote areas; to expand work in controlling malaria epidemics; to provide inoculation to women, particularly pregnant women, and infants; to acquire clean water for people and encourage them to use clean water from more sources; to modernize hospitals in some urban areas by acquiring needed modern apparatuses for them; to improve the provincial and district-level hospitals; and to implement an appropriate policy toward people of each strata on free medical charges and on obligatory payment of medical bills.

It is predicted that approximately 2.2 billion kips will be set aside for investment in the public health sector, which is equivalent to 1.8 percent of total state investment.

12. The Information and Culture Sector:

—To continue improving the information, propaganda, and mass media work to attain new quality, especially their contents; to pay attention to improving material and technical components of this work through appropriate methods and forms so as to attract funds from various economic sectors for contributing to improving and upgrading it.

—To continue improving the national radio station in 1994, particularly its contents, so that it will be able to broadcast programs to the entire country and to increase the number of its broadcasting programs with improved quality and contents; and to improve the existing regional radio stations, especially in remote areas, so that they can carry on their regular programs or even increase them via the FM or AM systems.

—To continue building the [existing] broadcasting radio and television station by installing more equipment so that it will become capable of televising programs and to improve regional television stations up to an acceptable standard.

—To continue restoring, rehabilitating, preserving, and enhancing the rich cultural and literary heritage of our nation and of all ethnic minorities, such as folk serenading, singing, dancing, music, traditional costumes, wood carving, and other artistic works; to continue renovating important ruins and museums mentioned in the plan; to step up the management of and to popularize the history of ruins throughout the country which reflect the history and civilization of our nation.

The state is expected to invest a total of 1.04 billion kips in this work, an equivalent of 0.90 percent of the total investment.

13. The Labor and Social Welfare Sector:

—To establish a labor service center and a training center so as to raise the level of labor skills; to study and draft regulations and rules on labor management and labor relations; to outline the policies on housing, welfare, pensions, the disabled, and those people who sacrificed their lives for the revolution; and to set up the social welfare system for state employees throughout the country.

—To continue acquiring domestic and foreign capital for improving, expanding, and systemizing social welfare work by setting up its network from the center down to the local level; to continue the policy of welcoming refugees repatriated from abroad by providing them with shelters and land to earn their livelihood as well as education and protection.

14. The Rural Development Sector:

—To continue promoting the work of going down to the grass-roots in all fields and going up to upland areas resided by ethnic minorities; to expand the existing experimental stations of the government and localities; to set up and upgrade the committees in charge of rural development work at the central and provincial levels to become coordinating centers for this work; to review and assess the past rural development projects; to set up a new project by mobilizing various economic sectors to pool funds together, including national budgets and foreign aid and funds from other sources as a prototype for each province. As for the central region, 14 districts in five provinces have been designated as development areas with emphasis on the following five districts: Nakai, Khamkeut, Viangthong, Saisomboun, and Thathom. Funds, machines, and various tools must be provided to Khamkeut District at Laksao to turn it into a development area linked to industry. As for Viangthong, Saisomboun, and Thathom Districts, efforts will be made to resolve security and development problems aimed at gradually consolidating and improving the material and cultural living conditions of the multiethnic people.

The state is expected to invest approximately 10 billion kips in this sector, an equivalent of 9 percent of all state investment.

Part III [as published] Measures for fruitfully translating into reality the implementation of the 1993-94 socioeconomic development plan

Respected Chairman and delegates, to ensure the fulfillment of the plan, we will implement the following measures:

1. We must translate this plan into comprehensive projects reflecting specific tasks and requirements for labor and capital. These projects must have the continuity and development characteristics and conform to the economic structure in each locality so that they can be gradually linked together to become a goods production structure. Each project must have clear-cut objectives and targets and is aimed at fulfilling each task and objective outlined by the plan.

2. Each service must vigorously turn to the grass-roots to develop the countryside and mountainous regions in all fields and to simultaneously carry out the following three spheres of work: The first is to educate producers and service providers to profoundly appreciate the development plan so that they can participate in its implementation. The second is to continue urgently consolidating each service along the vertical line to become steady with quality and to be harmonious from the top to the bottom. The third is that administration at each level must take the initiative in planning and organizing the implementation of the development plan, including the work, manpower, and finance plans. We must encourage and supervise producers from the village level upward.

3. We must consolidate the management of and effectively utilize loans and aid from foreign countries with close coordination among the Committee for Planning and Cooperation, the Finance Ministry, banks, and other services concerned so as to prevent delay, loopholes, and losses.

4. We must provide capital for and implement a policy to motivate people in the countryside. At the same time, we must set up committees for guiding the production of goods at the central level and in each locality to manage this work.

5. We must adopt comprehensive measures to facilitate finance and monetary work, aimed at mobilizing internal revenue sources and effectively controlling expenditures.

6. We must use the national defense and public security maintenance forces in building the country; for example, in assisting in the exploitation of our rich natural resources and the building of certain socioeconomic foundations for the development of the countryside.

7. We must clearly divide responsibilities between the macro and micromanagement organizations. All services at the center must set up regulations and assign responsibilities to the provinces, districts, and villages to carry out tasks it is unable to regularly perform.

Respected Chairman and delegates, the orientation of tasks of the 1993-94 socioeconomic development plan which I have discussed is very extensive and diverse. We are absolutely confident that we will be able to fulfill it because we are blessed with the following factors and favorable conditions:

We have pursued a correct, just, and decisive policy which is leading us to every success. We have maintained internal unity, which has become a great strength for successfully implementing all tasks.

We enjoy certain new favorable conditions; that is, the joy of and support from the multiethnic people in the country to the socioeconomic development plan and the rising interest of the world people in our policy of broadening economic relations with foreign countries.

Even though we are still short of technical forces, many have been trained and upgraded to be competent to a certain extent, thus becoming important elements for our development. Moreover, we are also able to obtain needed technical assistance in various forms from outside of the country for developing and bringing prosperity to our country.

I am confident that all delegates will give due consideration and approval to this 1993-94 socioeconomic development plan so that the government will be able to organize its implementation with the aim of making our country prosperous with every passing day and our people gradually more wealthy and plentiful.

Thank you.

'Enemy' Aircraft Loss in 1964-65 Reported

BK2810044593 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 2330 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Feature in "Special Program Dedicated to the 45th Founding Anniversary of the Lao People's Army": "Heroic Deeds of Antiaircraft Battalion 456"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] After trampling underfoot the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos, the neocolonialist imperialists stepped up their special war of aggression. In addition to mobilizing soldiers of the rightist side and the Vang Pao special forces to launch nibbling attacks against the liberated areas, beginning 17 May 1964 the neocolonialist imperialists employed their air force to arrogantly and openly carry out a destructive war against our country. They resorted to using aircraft of various types to bomb Lao soil, barbarously killing innocent people. Their acts aroused a rising tide of indignation among our multiethnic Lao people and made them rise up and expand their struggle movements. The popular struggle movement constituted a strength and further encouragement to the combat spirit of the cadres and combatants of the antiaircraft corps.

In light of the escalation of the destructive air war, the air pirates considered Viangsai District—a main revolutionary base of the Lao Patriotic Front's forces—as a specific target to be destroyed. They sent hundreds of sorties of warplanes of various types to strafe and bomb Viangsai each day. [passage omitted]

Amid the mounting flames of the destructive air war, antiaircraft companies 26, 27, 28, and 229 were formed into a battalion on 2 May 1965. The newly set up antiaircraft battalion was authorized to defend the airspace of Viangsai District. [passage omitted]

On 4, 5, 6 June 1965, the neocolonialist imperialists, mobilizing their warplanes of various types, launched a new round of heavy and vicious bombing attacks against the revolutionary base in Viangsai District. They continuously strafed and bombed the district day and night for three consecutive days in the hope of exterminating the revolutionary forces as well as destroying the beautiful mountain ranges in the area. With a lofty patriotic spirit, the cadres and combatants of the antiaircraft battalion fought the air pirates throughout the three days and three nights. When one comrade fell down, many others rose up to take his place and continued to fight the air pirates. Some even used rifles to fight the enemy air pirates when their antiaircraft guns were destroyed. [passage omitted]

In the combat operation to defend Viangsai District on that occasion, our cadres and combatants securely defended the central revolutionary base. They shot down and destroyed 12 enemy aircraft. Following that victory, the battalion was named Antiaircraft Battalion 456. During the whole period of fighting against the enemy air pirates in the district, the cadres and combatants of Battalion 456 engaged in altogether 527 minor or major combat operations, including more than 150 fierce operations, downing more than 110 aircraft, and capturing five pilots. With the victory, Antiaircrfat Battalion 456 was awarded 12 Itsala medals of victory, two medals of distinction, and a heroic banner. [passage omitted]

Philippines

Ramos Says Clinton Meeting To Focus on Trade

BK0911091593 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] President Ramos says his meeting with his U.S. counterpart, Bill Clinton, will focus on improving trade and investment relations between the two countries. The one-on-one meeting of the president with Mr. Clinton is set for 22 November at the White House in Washington D.C. The chief executive also plans to meet with leaders of Filipino-American communities across the United States during his two-week visit, which starts tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Senator Wigberto Tanada is urging the president to make his U.S. visit an opportunity to pursue nonmilitary relations with Washington. Tanada said the president should also include in his agenda some pressing issues which have to be resolved.

For his part, Senator Ernesto Maceda is urging the nation to focus on the many positive prospects of the president's trip to the United States. He is also calling for the redefinition of the country's bilateral ties with the U.S. saying that it should be based on mutual respect and benefit. Senator Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo foresees the infusion of an additional $600 million worth of foreign investment as a result of the president's U.S. trip. Arroyo says their entry was assured after the senate ratified the convention of Multi-lateral Investments Guarantee Agency last week. The convention opens a wide-range of investment options for the U.S.-based international agencies interested to do business in the Philippines. She explains that the convention ensures various investment initiatives from noncommercial or political risks such as civil strife in the country.

Ramos Comments on U.S. Defense Treaty, Visit

BK0811130793 Quezon City PTV-4 Television Network in Tagalog 0600 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Weekly news conference by President Fidel V. Ramos in English with domestic and foreign correspondents at Malacanang Palace in Manila—live]

[Excerpts] [Ramos] First of all, let me deal with the criticisms from various quarters, but principally Senator Arturo Tolentino and one or two newspapers, whom you are very familiar with. This is in regard to Balikatan Exercise [joint military exercise].

I am issuing a statement plus the background papers pertaining to that set of exercises, and the statement is as follows:

President Fidel V. Ramos stated today that the Balikatan Exercise is neither illegal nor violative of the Constitution. The president was reacting to a claim by Senator Arturo Tolentino that the Mutual Defense Treaty [MDT] with the United States does not provide for these exercises.

I hope Senator Tolentino studies more carefully the existing Republic of the Philippines-United States Mutual Defense Treaty of 1951. In order to facilitate that study, we are providing some background material for you.

I would like to point out that the Philippines takes its treaty obligations very seriously, particularly in the context of today's changing world. Now, what is the chronology of the Mutual Defense Treaty with the United States? The Mutual Defense Treaty was signed on 30 August 1951. The Philippine Senate ratified the MDT on 12 May 1952. The exchange of instruments of ratification between the Philippines and the United States took place on 27 August 1952, and the treaty went into effect on the same day, 27 August 1952. Now, attached to this statement is the executive summary of the study made by the secretary of national defense, which traces the whole history of the Mutual Defense Treaty, the mechanisms that were created under that treaty to implement the treaty, namely, the Council of Ministers, and the Philippine-U.S. Mutual Defense Board which meets regularly, has been meeting regularly since 1958 up to now.

And so I'll provide this material to our hardworking press secretary for your information. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent identified only as Manny] Both Western and ASEAN countries are viewing with high hopes and optimism the forthcoming APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] meeting in Seattle, Washington where you will ably represent our country. Being a nonpower and small nation, what policies are we willing to adopt to attract more investors and open up new markets to propel our vision of Philippines 2000?

[Ramos] We are not a small nation, we are a medium-sized nation. I want you to know that. In terms of population we are in fact number 15 out of more than 170, and as far as GNP is concerned, we are up there, although not as high as some topnotchers. Now, having said that, I think we should realize that the APEC leaders' summit was convened precisely to give an opportunity for the leaders of the 14-member countries, including the Philippines, to get to know each other on a more personal basis so that the camaraderie and the goodwill of the report... [pauses] rapport that would be developed would result in quicker consultations and maybe quicker decisionmaking among us. So, the meeting is not just to look at numbers and the policies and loss.

Secondly, we will of course inform everybody, including the staffs of leaders. As I said earlier, the Philippines is back, and it's a new Philippines that is ready to do business in an open, liberal way unlike before where there is much less protectionism, where the playing field of economic enterprise is being made more and more level so that investors and traders and anyone interested in the Philippine economy can play on a level-playing field.

We'll also mention that we are dismantling cartels and monopolies injurious to public interest. We'll tell them that we have completely deregulated foreign exchange transactions, we're opening up the banking industry, we're providing new incentives for investors, we have a BOT [build-operate-transfer] program for various kinds of infrastructure, we have an electricity power crisis law which enables the president to avoid a lot of red tape in the formalization of working arrangements for those that want to do business in the Philippines in the power sector. We'll also tell them that we will have lights by Christmas, etcetera, etcetera. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent identified only as Ellen] Concerns have been raised by antibases groups on the possibility of the return of the U.S. troops under a commercial basis. Will access of U.S. troops to ship repair and resupply facilities of the country be discussed with U.S. President Bill Clinton or during your meeting with Pentagon officials?

[Ramos] I think you are confusing [word indistinct]. The normal servicing of visiting vessels is routine throughout the whole world for as long as these are vessels of friendly countries. This is being done: providing water, gasoline, shore leave, or liberty. In fact, this was done already on the part of the Philippines last 21 September when the USS O'Brien ported here at Manila Bay and the courtesy of the port was given that U.S. naval vessel. We will continue to do that because that is normal practice all over the world. I say there must be some confusion in the question that was channeled to you because [words indistinct] military bases, there's no such thing. There is not going to be any return of the bases. But we will provide the services necessary. This is normally done throughout the world.

[Ellen] Sir, in your discussions with Pentagon officials, will you be encouraging more of this type of visits?

[Ramos] Well, as I said it is normal. The Japanese, the Taiwanese, the Australian, the naval vessels of our other neighbors, they come and go. It's no big thing.

[Ellen] Sir, you also mention about a review of the MDT, what particular portion of the MDT should be... [pauses] will be reviewed?

[Ramos] Well, the upgraded cooperation in terms of education, exchanges of leaders, the training exercises. By the way, some of you may not know, but those exercises were formally opened today, I think. But the preliminary stages have been taking place since the last week of October, including the preview that we attended last 5 November at Fort Magsaysay.

[Ellen] Sir, are we going to seek for a clearer definition of the automatic response clause under the MDT?

[Ramos] That is not really very urgent now in the sense that there are no external threats to the Philippines. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, Sir, how would you characterize the talks, the agreement that was... [pauses] that they had in Jakarta over the weekend in the peace process?

[Ramos] They are very encouraging in terms of the results, but of course, they are not yet at a breakthrough on the core issues, and that, there is still a lot of work to be done in the future to bring both parties to a final, reasonable, political solution.

[Unidentified correspondent] So you wouldn't say that the cease-fire is a major step or a breakthrough?

[Ramos] Well, from my point of view, it is an important result. It is only interim, it's temporary. From the point of view of the people that are getting hit by bullets, of course it is paramount, it is major, it is the biggest thing that happens. It depends really on the point of view of the observer. But, I say, that is a very important result of the Jakarta talks.

[Unidentified correspondent] Sir, it also seems [changes thought] it's slightly confusing to be talking about an autonomous region. Can you clarify for me, Nur Misuari is negotiating, would like to negotiate for an autonomous region, but the people in Mindanao say they don't want an autonomous region?

[Ramos] Well, again it depends on your point of view because his point of view of what is an autonomous region, and the government's, and yours, and somebody else's are all different. But that one on the part of the government is based on the Constitution and the implementing law to that provision in the Constitution, which is Republic Act 6734, otherwise known as the Organic Act for Autonomy in Muslim Mindanao. So we just have to bring all of these contending points of view to a common ground so that we can come to a solution.

[Unidentified correspondent] Sir, last question. What is the largest threat right now, armed threat to the government? Would you say it's the Muslim Mindanao, the insurgents?

[Ramos] I said there are no external threats. As far as we see it, and as far as the internal threats are concerned, I think you are just as aware of it as I am because we have brought in the peace process to apply to the three major forces that have been fighting the government—the MNLF [Moro National Liberation Front], the CPP/NPA/NDF [Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army/National Democratic Front], and the so-called military rebels. There has been no outbreak of that kind of violence during the past three years, especially during the last 24 months. The level of hostilities has been greatly reduced, bloodshed has been minimal, and the rebels who have volunteered to return to the fold of the law are taking advantage of the national reconciliation and development program which provides them opportunities for livelihood, for gainful employment, for training, for scholarship, etcetera.

Government Files Appeal in Westinghouse Case

BK0911091993 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 4 Nov 93 p 12

[By Estela B. De La Paz]

[Text] The Philippine Government has filed a notice of appeal with the New Jersey Court seeking a reversal of the order issued by Judge Dickinson Debevoise last 4 October, Solicitor General Raul Goco told BUSINESS WORLD yesterday.

"We have to file a notice of appeal to avoid a technical knockout," he said.

Under United States laws, the concerned parties are given up to 30 days to file an appeal on any order issued by any of its courts.

The 4 October order of Judge Debevoise denied the Philippines its request to appeal the lost bribery case due to the alleged harassment of the witnesses.

Once the appeal is decided upon favorably by the New Jersey court, this will be elevated to the third circuit Court of Appeals in Pennsylvania.

Moreover, the order also stated that any settlement to be entered into by the Philippine Government and Westinghouse Electric Corp. will be under the jurisdiction of the New Jersey court.

This part of the order is now the main stumbling block in finalizing the compromise settlement with Westinghouse.

Meanwhile, Business World gathered the pre-trial hearing on the arbitration case in Geneva, Switzerland will begin 9 November. Still, this does not mean talks have bogged down on the compromise settlement with Westinghouse.

Mr. Goco said Government and Westinghouse are now working on the language to be used in the compromise settlement to ensure the release of both parties from any future claims from "known and unknown" parties, including laborers' claims against the National Power Corp. and Westinghouse.

Mr. Goco added that Government's position on having the order "vacated" or recalled by the New Jersey court before any settlement is inked still stands.

While Westinghouse is agreeable to working out a way to have the order vacated, it wants the settlement agreement effective immediately. Westinghouse gave itself up to 19 November to have the order vacated. If it will not be successful, then the contract will be terminated.

However, Mr. Goco said Government opted for the recall of the order first before any settlement is implemented.

Romulo Concerned Over PRC Nuclear Test

BK0911063893 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 4 Nov 93 p 3

[By Johanna Son]

[Text] Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo has conveyed to the Chinese government the Philippines' "serious concern and apprehension" over Beijing's nuclear test last month.

Romulo relayed the Philippine government's sentiments to Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Huang Guifang, who called on him last week.

He said the world has been hopeful about "making some progress" toward general and complete disarmament especially in the field of nuclear weapons, but the Chinese test last 5 October has disputed this.

In a statement, the Department of Foreign Affairs quoted Romulo as saying "the decision to test nuclear weapons has punctured a period of equanimity and breaks the current moratorium on nuclear tests by other nuclear weapons states."

The nuclear test could be perceived as an "indication that China could be a potential military threat, and we expressed concern about that," Romulo said in an interview.

He called on all countries, especially China as a member of the newly formed Asian Regional Forum, to "exercise restraint, to discharge responsibility over fearsome technology and to undertake to forego any more tests."

The Philippines is a signatory to the United Nations treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Manila first expressed concern over China's decision to explode a nuclear device at its test site at Lop Nor during a session of the UN General Assembly.

Ramos Confident of Lasting Peace in Mindanao

BK0811104893 Quezon City PTV-4 Television Network in Tagalog 0500 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] President Fidel Ramos has expressed hope that the peace talks between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] in Jakarta will be completely successful.

The talks are currently in recess and will resume on 10 January. Both panels are scheduled to sign two agreements today which they earlier agreed upon during the first part of the talks. Included in the agreements was the implementation of a cease-fire between the government forces and the MNLF rebels in Mindanao.

The president reiterated that although the government and the MNLF panels have not reached an understanding on the major issues, what is important is that they have started to discuss the issues again.

According to the president, the peace talks will pave the way for discussing actions that will lead to true peace in the nation.

MNLF 'Optimisitic'

BK0911092793 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] Chairman Nur Misuari is optimistic that peace talks with government negotiators would finally end the secessionist problem in Mindanao. MNLF and government negotiators met with Indonesian President Suharto yesterday. Misuari told Suharto that they are confident of reaching a peace agreement when the talks resume in February. However, both sides agree that many differences still need to be resolved. Chief government negotiator Manuel Yan says he is satisfied with the results of the Jakarta talks, but he admitted that there are still widely diverging views.

Ramos Orders Offensive Against Moro Rebels

BK0911092593 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 3 Nov 93 pp 1, 10

[By Nash Maulana and Jay Feliciano]

[Text] Banisilan, North Cotabato— Close to 5,000 residents have fled their homes as army helicopters continued pounding a stronghold of Moro insurgents here.

In Zamboanga City, Lt. Gen. Thelmo Cunanan, newly promoted Southern Command chief, said the military offensive, on its fifth day yesterday, was ordered by President Ramos himself to flush out Moro Islamic Liberation Front [MILF] guerrillas who were terrorizing innocent civilians in Sultan Kudarat and North Cotabato.

Government soldiers have killed 23 MILF guerrillas and supporters, captured two others, and recovered six high-powered firearms in the course of the campaign, he said.

Cunanan also assured local officials in the affected areas that the military was giving utmost attention to the safety of civilians.

But residents here said a farmer, identified as Basit Mamakaw, was killed by stray bullets from a Huey helicopter on Sunday.

A grade schooler identified as Luna Abdul was also wounded, but relatives said they could not take him to the hospital without a safe conduct pass from the military .

Col. Vivencio Bataga, commander of 35th Army Infantry Battalion, said the MILF rebels were terrorizing residents in the area to gain national attention and force the government to hold separate negotiations with them. Government representatives and Moro National Liberation Front leaders headed by Chairman Nur Misuari are holding peace talks in Jakarta.

But an MILF spokesman denied the military's accusations, saying that his group is supporting the talks in the Indonesian capital.

The official, who identified himself only as Murad, also said the MILF leadership does not support the activities of some of its guerrillas in the two provinces.

"They are merely responding to CAFGU (Civilian Armed Force Geographical Unit) harassment on their relatives in the area," Murad told an interview over local radio station DXMS.

Unconfirmed reports said North Cotabato Gov. Rosario P. Diaz and Maguindanao Gov. Norodin Matalam were able to forge a cease-fire between the government troops and the MILF guerrillas as of press time.

Fleeing residents were temporarily sheltered in a one-hectare cornfield in Barangay [village] Maridagao, Banisilan as well as in nearby Kabacan town.

Banisilan Mayor Porferio Macasarte said the rash of vendetta killings here, which have reportedly claimed the lives of at least 11 people, stemmed from a case of land dispute between Christians and Maguindanaoan families in Barangay Busaon.

15 Nov NDF Talks Unlikely To Be Held

BK0711105293 Quezon City MALAYA in English 3 Nov 93 p 2

[By Ellen Tordesillas]

[Text] Oscar F. Santos, presidential adviser on the peace process, said yesterday it was doubtful if exploratory talks with the National Democratic Front [NDF] in Vietnam would push through on 15 November as suggested by the Philippine government.

"Sa palagay ko hindi matutuloy 'yun. Gipit na sa panahon. [I think it will not push through. We do not have much time.] It's barely two weeks from now," Santos said.

Former Ambassador Howard Dee, head of the government panel, said the Holland-based communist rebels have not responded to the government's proposal to a 15 November start of the talks.

The NDF also ignored an earlier proposal by the government for an 18 October start of the talks.

Santos said the government recognizes initiatives of the National Democratic Front in dealing with the Vietnamese government as a preparation for the second round of exploratory talks seeking an end to the 23-year insurgency in the country.

Santos said the NDF initiatives "are working for our mutual benefit as far as preparations are concerned."

Santos was reacting to statements made by Luis Jalandoni, the NDF's official representative to the exploratory talks, that the rebel group reserves the right to make direct arrangements with Hanoi.

The Vietnamese government has agreed to host the second round of exploratory talks between the government and the NDF in Ho Chi Minh City.

The NDF set as a condition for resumption of talks the release of "political offenders" still being held in several detention centers in the country.

Santos cited government's efforts to release the remaining 350 alleged political prisoners in various parts of the country as claimed by the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP).

He also expressed confidence the NDF would reconsider its hard-line position on the framework of the talks, adding it does not violate the spirit and meaning of the Hague Declaration.

Meanwhile, the ongoing peace negotiations between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front will take a recess this week but its working groups will continue their work in the Philippines or elsewhere.

Ambassador Manuel Yan, chief government negotiator, said President Ramos has approved the recess to give the working groups time to carry on their tasks.

Ramos expressed satisfaction over the progress of the talks, Yan added.

S. Wiryono, Indonesian ambassador-designate to France who serves as facilitator of the negotiations, said the talks may transfer from Jakarta. The burden of the talks will now shift to the various working groups created by the panels to flesh out the details and implementing schemes for the 8-item agenda they have already adopted.

The working groups, however, will have to report to the panels within 60 days as earlier agreed upon.

NPA Squad in Manila Defies Chairman's Order

BK0611042893 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 3 Nov 93 pp 1, 13

[By Vic Vega]

[Text] New People's Army (NPA) rebels operating in Metro Manila have defied the order of Jose Maria Sison, chairman of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), to quit the underground movement, claiming that he is no longer the party's chairman.

The Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB), which has 5,000 strong guerrilla force in Metro Manila and one of the best "hit" units of the NPA, said they recognize the leadership of Felimon Lagman, commander of the ABB and party secretary in Rizal and Metro Manila regions.

Lagman and four other top CPP leaders had been "expelled" from the movement on order of Sison after they refused to recognize his leadership.

Sison accused Lagman and other leaders as "traitors" and "spies" of the government. Lagman, who declared independence from Sison's group, accused Sison and his group of engaging in "factionalism" and "Stalinism" in the movement.

Reports said Lagman's ABB no longer accepts orders from Sison, and that they will resume their operations against "corrupt" government and military officials.

Most regional cadres of the CPP in the Visayas had declared independence from the Netherlands-based Sison, while many NPA regional commanders, including Gregorio Rosal, spokesman of the NPA's in Southern Luzon, still recognize his leadership.

The three other communist leaders "dismissed" by Sison were former NPA chief Romulo Kintanar, NPA Secretary General Ricardo Reyes, and NPA Central Command Secretary Arturo Tabara.

Police Arrest Suspected Hit Squad Members

BK0511105393 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 31 Oct 93 p 12

[Text] Three suspected members of the Alex Boncayao Brigade [ABB], the communist hit squad in Metro Manila, were arrested by the Traffic Management Command [TMC] of the Philippine National Police early this week.

The three suspected ABB members were nabbed following a complaint by a Manila businessman that the suspects were allegedly demanding a P50,000 [Philippine pesos] progressive tax for the underground movement.

Senior Supt. [Superintendent] Miguel Coronel, TMC director, identified the suspects as Ronilo Gutierrez alias Ka [Comrade] Nilo, Loreto Lozano alias Ka Glen, and Isagani Toro alias Ka Danilo.

According to Coronel, Gutierrez was the first to be arrested by his men during an entrapment operation inside the Jollibee fast-food restaurant in Tayuman Tuesday.

Gutierrez's arrest came shortly after Ronald Soccion, a Manila-based businessman, sought the assistance of the TMC for the apprehension of the suspect who was demanding P50,000 from him.

During interrogation, Gutierrez bared the location of their safe house on Tagaytay Street in La Loma, Quezon City.

TMC operatives who raided the alleged ABB safe house subsequently nabbed Lozano and Toro. Seized from them were one caliber .38 revolver, a caliber .45 pistol, one cellular phone, a hand grenade, a handheld radio and several alleged subversive documents.

Roundup of Rebel Activities, 30 Oct-5 Nov

BK0911023693

[Editorial Report] The following is a roundup of reports of Philippine rebel activities from Philippine media monitored by Bangkok Bureau between 30 October and 5 November. Source information is given in parentheses at the end of each item.

30 October

No fileworthy items monitored.

31 October

After four months of negotiation, a field commander, two subcommanders, and 50 followers of the Moro National Liberation Front surrendered to military authorities in Palimbanga, Sultan Kudarat to take advantage of the government's amnesty program. (Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English p 8)

1-4 November

No fileworthy items monitored.

5 November

A fighter plane belonging to the 3d Air Division was hit by enemy fire in the vicinity of North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat, where government troops are pursuing armed groups believed responsible for harassing civilians in the area. Authorities suspect the armed groups were members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. (Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English p 24)

Ramos Allocates Funding for Local Projects

BK0511134793 Quezon City MALAYA in English 2 Nov 93 p 2

[By Noel Bartolome]

[Text] President Ramos has approved the allocation of P23 billion [Philippine pesos] from the Countrywide Development Fund to local government units in the next three years, Interior Secretary Rafael Alunan III said yesterday.

The amount will be used for programs on employment generation, reforestation, rural investment, infrastructure, and housing, Alunan said.

Alunan said P17 billion of the fund has been guaranteed by revenues from the Bureau of Internal Revenue, while the remaining P6 billion will have to be raised within the next three years.

"The project aims to achieve partnership between the local government units and the national agencies to generate self-reliance among local government units," he said.

Alunan visited over the weekend a local government-sponsored mahogany plantation project in Capiz, which tapped local families in planting 2,0000 [figure as published] trees. The trees can be harvested in 15 years and sold at P10,000 each.

The reforestation project was a brainchild of former communist rebel commander and now Army Lt. Col. Victor Corpuz.

The project is jointly supervised by lawyer Alberto Bernardo, executive director of the National Reconciliation and Development Program, and DILG [Department of Interior and Local Government] Assistant Secretary Yolanda de Leon.

Funds Set Aside for Poorest Provinces

BK0611094993 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 2 Nov 93 p 4

[By Marichu A. Villanueva]

[Text] President Ramos and the Cabinet have set aside P1 billion [Philippine pesos] worth of government projects that will be implemented starting 1 January in the 19 "poorest" provinces identified as priority areas of development.

Presidential Countryside Development Council (PCDC) Adviser former Negros Gov. Daniel "Bitay" Lacson told the Standard that some P300 million have been identified.

The chief executive himself announced the P1 billion poverty alleviation program during the civic assembly in Masbate, Masbate, where he flew last Wednesday for provincial visit.

Mr. Ramos said that Masbate which is among the list of 19 "poorest" provinces identified by the PCDC should receive additional allocation from the P1-billion poverty alleviation program on top of the normal budgetary support it will get from the proposed 1994 General Appropriations Act (GAA).

To date, the chief executive disclosed, the executive branch has been "able to source 35 to 45 percent" of the P1-billion funding requirement to be imputed into the 1994 resources of the national government for these 19 "poorest" provinces.

Lacson explained that the P1 billion program will be funded from the pooling of resources of the eight departments which are members of the PCDC, the bulk of which comes from the infrastructure projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

Lacson said he has submitted to the president and the Cabinet "master plans" for 16 out of the 19 "poorest" provinces which have gained the endorsement and confirmation of their respective governors.

The PCDC chairman said the executive branch plans to tap also the congressmen of these 19 "poorest" provinces using their Countrywide Development Fund (CDF) or notoriously known as the "pork-barrel." Congressmen are entitled to P12.5 million CDF each every year under the GAA while each senator receives P18 million.

Likewise, Lacson said, the executive branch will ask the governors and mayors of these 19 "poorest" provinces to share their internal revenue allotment (IRA) to bridge the financing gap of the poverty alleviation program of the national government.

"We will ask them (congress, governors, mayors) to put their money where their mouths are," Lacson said.

"Because this really requires matching of resources," he pointed out.

Based on the year-long study, review and evaluation of the PCDC, 55 to 80 percent of the population in these 19 "poorest" provinces are living below the poverty line.

Statistics show that there is a 50 to 70 percent malnutrition rate of the children in these 19 provinces while 10 to

40 percent of the people have no access to power, potable water and sanitation facilities.

Other "poorest" provinces are Batanes, Abra, Benguet, Mountain Province, Kalinga-Apayao, Ifugao, Aurora, Romblon, Biliran, Southern Leyte, Eastern Samar, Antique, Guimaras, Surigao dei Sur, Agusan del Sur, Sulu, Basilan and Tawi-tawi.

In his address before the Masbate folks, the president vowed to remove their province from the list of the "poorest".

Development Plan for Central Luzon Begins

BK0611095993 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 3 Nov 93 pp 1, 8

[Text] The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) starts today the preparation of a master plan for the agro-industrial development of six provinces in Central Luzon as its team meets with officials of Bataan and Zambales provinces.

Bataan Rep. Felicito C. Payumo said the team headed by Dr. Tsuyoshi Hashimoto, is scheduled to visit the Export Processing Zone in Mariveles and the site of the Subic Special Economic Zone (SSEZ) in Hermosa, both in Bataan.

It will then proceed to Zambales where the Japanese will confer with Gov. Amor Deloso, chairman of the Regional Development Council of Region Three.

Payumo said this master plan is more comprehensive and encompassing than the Calabarzon [Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon] in the Southern Tagalog region because it covers six provinces and involves not only the industrial development of the area, but also its agricultural development. Calabarzon covers only five provinces.

The provinces covered by the master plan, he said, are Bataan, Zambales, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan and Nueva Ecija. When the program was originally conceived in 1987, it covered only the Bataan peninsula.

In 1988, however, upon the request of Payumo himself, the area covered by the master development plan included not only Bataan and Zambales, but the coastal towns of Pampanga and Bulacan; and in 1990, by mutual agreement of the Regional Development Council and the West Central Luzon Program, the plan included all six Central Luzon provinces.

The preparation of the master plan by JICA, the same group which developed the master plan for Calabarzon, began in 1989 with the passage by congress of Resolution No. 1591, authored by Payumo and supported by other representatives of Central Luzon.

The resolution directed the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the National Economic Development Authority to implement a West Central Luzon Development Program.

Payumo said the master development plan covers an area of 18,230 square kilometers, corresponding to 6.1 percent of the total national land area, with a population of 6,199,000 or 10 percent of the country's total population.

Exploitation of Indigenous Power Supply Urged

BK0411093693 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 04 Nov 93

[Text] The country should reduce its heavy dependence on foreign energy sources to save on precious foreign exchange and spur growth in the countryside, President Ramos urged yesterday. Speaking during the 57th anniversary of the National Power Corporation [Napocor], the president noted that the country relies too much on foreign sources to meet its energy requirements. We rely on foreign sources for close to 70 percent of our energy requirements, Mr. Ramos told Napocor officials and employees led by its president, Francisco Viray, and chairman, Energy Secretary Delfin Lazaro. There is a need to decrease our dependence from these sources and instead tap more fully our own indigenous resources, he pointed out. The president said while it is good to exploit energy sources like oil, hydro, coal, or geothermal, Filipinos can also tap nonconventional sources of energy which are abundant in the Philippines. These include solar, wind, and tidal phenomena, sugar, coconut, and rice waste, and even garbage to name a few, the president said. By tapping our indigenous resources, we do not only save on foreign exchange but also spur growth in the rural areas, thereby encouraging rural folks to be more self-reliant, he explained.

Meanwhile, President Ramos renewed his government's commitment to supply energy at sufficient level at reasonable rates and to alleviate the present condition of the poor. These two objectives are intimately related, the president said, adding the reliable supply of energy is an indispensable factor if we are to move the engines of our economy forward, he said. He said the Napocor has embarked on a power development project that would last until the year 2005. The project aims to provide an adequate energy supply to the country's growing economy. According to the president, part of this project is to provide one band of 300 megawatts of additional power in the Luzon grid by the end of the year. To do this, Napocor should complete 12 private power projects and so far it has already completed more than ten.

During yesterday's anniversary rites, the president also led the ceremonial switch-on of three 30-megawatt power barges from the Far East Livingstone of Singapore [FELS], an internationally renowned offshore rig builder and builder of specialized vessels, including cable-laying ships. The barges will be deployed in Calaca, Batangas to be hooked up to the Luzon grid. The addition of the power barges is expected to achieve the objective of a zero brown-out Christmas. Apart from three barges turned over by FELS, the Napocor also received one fuel barge with 40,000 barrels towards capacity, a pump barge with a 230 kilovolt high-tension switch yard. The barges use bunker C type of fuel.

Military To Reduce Troops by 35 Percent

BK0911034993 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 5 Nov 93 p 6

[By Dave Veridiano]

[Text] Defense Secretary Renato de Villa yesterday said the Armed Forces will reduce its strength by at least 35 percent, or a reduction of about 60,000 troops within the next seven years.

De Villa announced the troop reduction during yesterday's 54th founding anniversary of the defense department.

De Villa said the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] will start limited recruitment of officers and enlisted men as replenishment for combat casualties and those affected by natural attrition, such as retirement, promotion and those who went on absence without official leave (AWOL).

The anticipated 35 percent reduction in the armed forces would mean the demobilization of up to 60,000 men. The AFP's current strength is estimated at 160,000, representing regular troops.

The regular troops are spread out among the three major commands of the AFP—the Army, Air Force and Navy. The bulk of the ground troops are assigned to the Army.

De Villa said the military will now place more emphasis on nation-building based on new guidelines issued by President Ramos.

"We have to adjust to our new role and we have to make our existence relevant to the times," he said.

De Villa said the AFP is mobilizing its manpower and resources in helping government infrastructure programs, particularly in building of roads in the countryside.

Despite budgetary constraints and reduced logistical support due to the termination of military assistance from the United States, De Villa said the DND-AFP [Department of National Defense-Armed Forces of the Philippines] performed well during the first year of the Ramos administration.

On the planned troop reduction, De Villa said: "We can't do it instantly as we have to prepare soldiers to their new jobs."

Top military officials, confident of defeating the insurgents, said the AFP will continue to pursue its modest modernization program in the next 10 to 15 years.

AFP Chief Gen. Lisandro Abadia said he envisions the military to be lean but effective and an able partner of the government in socio-economic development.

Abadia said the military is also strengthening its existing projects in support of the government's pump-priming program which includes civil works, modernization program, the Self-Reliant Defense Posture programs and the bases conversion plan.

He said the military is confident the AFP will attain its goal of strategic victory over the communist guerrillas by year-end as the underground movement is expected to further decline.

Earlier, the AFP said that from its peak strength in 1988 of some 25,000 regulars, 15,500 firearms and 8,490 influenced barangays [village], the communist's strength has been reduced to 13,480 regulars, 9,290 firearms, and 1,712 barangays [villages] as of 1992.

Marines To Receive Modern Equipment

BK0911025893 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 0930 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP], has promised the Philippine Marines that they will be given new automatic rifles and other modern equipment. Abadia made the statement during a ceremony at Fort Bonifacio marking the Marines' 43d anniversary. The 300 new automatic rifles are part of the AFP's modernization program.

Outstanding Marines were honored during the ceremony. Among them was Captain Juancho Saban, who was awarded a gold cross for gallantry in action.

First Semester Foreign Debt $33.35 Billion

BK0811014593 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 3 Nov 93 pp 1, 6

[By Mary Rose L. Maipid]

[Text] A less than active trade sector; a more favorable foreign exchange environment; and a consistent debt reduction program combined to clip the country's foreign debt stock by $936 million from $34.284 billion in end-May to $33.348 billion at the end of the first semester.

However, cumulative data for the period January to June show that at $33.348 billion the country's foreign debt had in fact ballooned by some $2.414 billion over its year end 1992 level.

The Bangko Sentral [Central Bank] attributed this to net availments of medium- to long-term loans amounting to a total of $1.287 billion for the entire first semester.

Equally damaging was the Japanese yen's continued appreciation against the U.S. dollar during the first six months of the year. The Bangko Sentral reported that this development alone contributed to an increase in the Philippines' foreign debt by $1.541 billion.

Nonetheless, Bangko Sentral documents show the government settled a total of $874 million worth of short-term trade-related borrowings in June, largely in line with the 30 June termination of the country's revolving trade facility agreement with foreign commercial banks.

Specifically, the government paid $400 million of the oil financing loans it has taken out as well as negotiated $610 million worth of confirmed letters of credit.

Also during the month, local exporters availed of $16 million worth of pre-export advances and $36 million worth of direct accommodations from suppliers in the form of open account arrangements and documents against acceptances.

Combined with local commercial banks' borrowings of $42 million, the funds used to bankroll the export sector's financing requirements resulted in an end June net reduction in short-term borrowings by $832 million.

Aside from the slash in the level of short-term credits, a mix of debt reduction schemes employed during the month contributed to a further decline in the country's foreign debt stock by another $168 million.

Depreciation

Save for developments involving the Japanese yen, the bigger boost to the national government's efforts to reduce its foreign debt came from the further depreciation of several major currencies against the U.S. dollar.

The Bangko Sentral said adjustments to account for the depreciation of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) special drawing rights, the Swiss franc, the Austrian schilling, the Deutschemark, the Belgian franc and other major currencies contributed to a net decline in the Philippines' debt for the month of June by another $91 million.

In the same month, the government availed of $335 million worth of medium- to long-term loans which effectively offset the repayment of $181 million worth of credits of the same tenor. Thus, a $154 million net increase in medium- to long-term loans was recorded for the month of June.

Should the strengthening of Japan's currency continue, the Philippines' foreign debt may be in for more adjustments as Japan remains the country's largest bilateral creditor.

Moreover, broken down in terms of the nature of the source of credit, the Philippines remained most indebted to bilateral sources which total up 40 percent of the country's total foreign debt. Loans from multilateral funding agencies accounted for 23 percent while banks and financial institutions provided about 18 percent. Some 84 percent of the credit provided by these sources had medium- to long-term maturities while the balance were short term credit facilities.

In terms of beneficiary, about 75 percent of the country's foreign debt is being used to bankroll the public sector's financing needs.

Among these are the National Power Corporation's power and energy projects, the Development Bank of the Philippines' and Land Bank of the Philippines' relending windows, and the national government's power and energy disaster and rehabilitation, education, water supply, roads and bridges, and general public expenditures.

Thailand

Further Reportage on Thai Workers in Libya

'Contingency Plan' Ordered

BK0911000693 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Nov 93 pp 1, 3

[Text] The Thai Government has ordered a contingency plan for the evacuation of 10,000 Thais from Libya after the country's leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi effectively ordered their expulsion in response to what he called Thailand's support for US accusations that his country was making chemical weapons.

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri returning from India last night, described Col [Colonel] al-Qadhdhafi's action as stemming from a "misunderstanding" and denied Thailand was assisting the US in tarnishing Libya's image.

Sqd Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong said he had asked the Thai Embassy in Greece to find ways to help Thai workers in case of their expulsion.

The Foreign Ministry is coordinating efforts with agencies concerned, airlines and countries which border Libya to assist the evacuation if it does take place.

The ministry said the Government had prepared a budget of 120 million baht, set up a committee to oversee the repatriation and worked out a series of measures to bring the workers home.

"The planned dismissal of as many as 10,000 Thai workers has been caused by a misunderstanding on the part of the Libyan leader that Thailand has impaired the image of Libya by portraying it as a country producing various types of chemical weapons," a ministry statement said.

"Thailand does not wish to be dragged into the US-Libya conflict and has never accused Libya of possessing or producing chemical weapons," Mr Pratyathawi Tawethikun, deputy permanent secretary of the ministry of foreign affairs, said.

The committee would provide finance and vehicles to bring the workers home, the statement said. A total of about 25,000 Thais were working in Libya, but the reported expulsion apparently concerns only 10,000.

The Thai Government had been in touch with Tripoli to explain the position of Thai workers in Libya and ask for some assistance for them, the statement said.

"The response from Libya was satisfactory. So far, Thai-Libyan relations have been smooth. The majority of Thai workers in Libya entered and have been working there legally," it said.

Col al-Qadhdhafi's threatened dismissal of the Thai workers was in retaliation for Thailand's cracking down on companies which the United States said were involved in building chemical weapons plants in Libya.

"As Thailand has turned its back on Libya because of US threats and, as Thailand accuses Libya of building chemical weapons plants, Libya does not wish to have Thai workers here," the Thai Foreign Ministry quoted al-Qadhdhafi as saying.

The US complained to the Thai Government several months ago that at least 200 Thais employed by a total of three companies were involved in building tunnels which it said would be used to house chemical weapons plants.

Early last month, Thai authorities arrested a Thai construction company owner, Wirot Sakunmuthit, and four others in another company on charges of illegally sending workers to Libya to build giant underground shelters. They were released on bail pending a court trial.

"The Thai Government's legal action against those companies was taken because they had violated Thai law and it had nothing to do with pressure from any other country," Mr Pratyathawi said.

"Several foreign companies have received from the Libyan authorities an order to oust their Thai workers within 10 days to one month," a senior Asian diplomat in Tripoli told REUTERS by telephone.

"Apparently, because of priority problems in the realisation of projects, others were asked to be ready to oust their Thai workers but were not given a deadline," he said.

He said the foreign companies with Thai workers were mainly Thai, Korean, Dutch, Italian and Swiss.

In his speech, Col al-Qadhdhafi said the trouble with the Thais began when work on a giant water pipeline reached the Tarhouna hills, about 65 km southeast of Tripoli.

Thais are working for the Korean company building the pipeline.

"When the company started work in the Tarhouna hills which the canal is to pass through they (the Thais) went saying that Libya was building tunnels under the hill to make plants for nerve gas," he said.

"The Libyan people must now take the place at once of 10,000 Thai workers who spread lies about us and we will see if America is going to give them jobs," Col al-Qadhdhafi said.

Last month the United States said Thai companies, including job placement agencies providing Thai workers to foreign contractors, were helping build Thai-designed tunnels in a hillside near Tarhouna for making and storing chemical weapons.

Labour and Social Welfare Permanent Secretary Sawai Phrammani yesterday said there might have been some "misunderstanding" in Tripoli.

Mr Sawai said the Government would find ways to have the Thais working in Libya and their families in Thailand "least affected" by Col al-Qadhdhafi's order. The recent arrest of the operators of three Thai job agencies, SPC, W&M and Handle Group, on charges of illegally exporting workers to Libya, were also seen as by Tripoli as Thailand's undue compliance with the US. Mr Sawai said that Tripoli might have misunderstood the arrests. Bangkok never meant to please Washington with that move.

A committee headed by Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan has been set up with Foreign Ministry and Labour and Social Welfare Ministry officials to cope with developments in Tripoli.

Thais to be repatriated would belong to a Korean firm, Dongah Construction Co, Mr Sawai said.

Defense Minister Comments

BK0911075093 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Talking to reporters during an interview before attending this morning's cabinet meeting, Defense Minister General Wichit Sukmak said that the problem of Thai workers in Libya is being handled by the Foreign Ministry. The ministry is coordinating work with other agencies now. Gen. Wichit said that if there is any request for help in evacuating Thai workers, he would instruct the armed forces commanders to provide their full support, especially in arranging a return trip by sea.

Asked about the U.S. attitude on this issue, the defense minister said the United States is determined to oppose the production of nuclear or chemical weapons. It wants to see the implementation of the UN Charter and resolutions prohibiting production of weapons of mass destruction.

Deputy Labor Minister on Talks

BK0911093293 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Labor and Social Welfare Deputy Minister Phaithun Kaeothong said after returning from a visit to Taiwan and Hong Kong that the Libyan leader's order to foreign firms with contracts in Libya to send Thai workers back home was an expression of discontent, but, he said, there had been no confirmation that Thai workers would be sent home. He said we should wait and see. The minister said that Thailand had sent officials for negotiation, and he believed that an understanding could be reached with Libya. Should there be any repatriation of Thai workers before the expiration of their contracts, the companies which hired them would be responsible for the expenses of their evacuation. The Thai Government is ready to help them if there is any problem. He said that workers who return are guaranteed jobs at home and that their families would not be in trouble.

Phaithun said that the Thai Government has never adopted a labor policy antagonistic toward Libya or intended to please the United States or any other country. The arrest of company owners for illegally handling job placements for Thai workers was a normal procedure carried out by authorities, and the ban on Thai workers from taking jobs at factories manufacturing chemical weapons is based on the principle of correctness because Thailand is a member of the United Nations.

Ministers on Libyan Announcement

BK0911112493 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Speaking during an interview with newsmen at Government House about the Libyan leader's televised statement ordering about 10,000 Thai workers out of the country in retaliation for the Thai Government's support for the U.S. accusation that Libya was making chemical weapons, Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan, in his capacity as chairman of the committee in charge of evacuating Thai workers, said the issue was political and that the government must try to sort out the problem with great care. He would try his best to minimise the impact. On the fate of the Thai workers, he said the government will help them.

[Begin recording] [Amnuai] We must try to see what options we have in order to solve the problem.

[Unidentified reporter] For what has happened, will the United States help our workers?

[Amnuai] I don't know. I don't think we have contacted the United States on the issue.

[Reporter] Why has the problem been blown up to this extent?

[Amnuai] Please give me some time to study it. [laughs]

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Amnuai] Well, steps have been taken as far as I know. We have resorted to diplomatic channels. We will try our best to minimize the impact, or to prevent it completely. Things have not become that serious anyway.

[Reporter] If Thai workers are expelled, do we have other jobs for them?

[Amnuai] The government will help them in an appropriate fashion. There are job opportunities around the world. We want Thai workers to have good jobs both here and abroad. [end recording]

General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, labor and social welfare minister, said that legal action taken against the job placement companies was carried out properly by the government. It is the duty of the government to pursue what is right and there has been no discrimination. He said he would check to confirm the facts in the statement made by the Libyan leader. Concerning Thai workers, he said the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry is ready to help them find jobs in other countries.

Meanwhile, Labor and Social Welfare Deputy Minister Soemsak Karun said the Thai Government must try to reach for a better understanding with Libya. He believes this is what the Foreign Ministry has been doing, and hopes a good mutual understanding would be achieved.

[Begin Soemsak recording] I think we could reach a good understanding since we have mutual interests. If workers are expelled on the spur of the moment, they too will have to suffer losses. There should be a proper step for the Foreign Ministry to follow in order to reach a good understanding. However, we are not underestimating the situation, and we are preparing to cope with the situation. Still, I am optimistic about it and believe we should achieve mutual understanding. The whole problem might have been caused by a certain misunderstanding in the attitude of one another. I believe the Foreign Ministry will be able to solve the problem. I even hope that Thai workers would not be sent home once the talks have been held. We must realize that they also have their interests and that they stand to lose—it takes time to hire workers to replace about 10,000 who have been expelled. The country is also in the process of development. Let us hope for a good thing. [end recording]

Chuan Says No Workers Yet Dismissed

BK0911141293 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Speaking to reporters about the reported lay-off of Thai workers in Libya, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said that so far, the report on the dismissal has not been confirmed, adding that, however, the Thai Government is ready to help the workers. He said:

[Begin Chuan recording] The government has been making preparations since October in connection with the problem of the Thai workers in Libya, but it was not the evacuation of workers in case of a mass lay-off. We made the plan to cope with the problems in case of untoward incidents such as attacks by Western countries. We intend to coordinate with Libya and nearby countries for the evacuation of Thai workers under such circumstances. Since it has been reported that Thai workers might be laid off, our plan will have to be readjusted. Let me tell you that so far, no Thai workers have been dismissed. Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry is doing something. This problem can be attributed to the reported mistreatment of the job placement company that sent Thai workers to Libya, which is untrue. The Labor Ministry merely enforces our country's law. Any job placement company sending workers to any country without official permits must face legal actions. I believe that the Foreign Ministry will later provide them with a clear explanation. [end recording]

Ministry Searching for 'Facts'

BK0911144993 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Speaking to reporters at the Foreign Ministry this evening about new developments concerning the Libyan leader's decision to send Thai workers back home, Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri said that as far as he knows, no Thai workers have been sent back to Thailand from Libya. However, the Foreign Ministry has been making efforts through diplomatic channels to find out the facts and seek negotiations that can lead to a good understanding. The Thai Embassy in Greece has been assigned to explain the matter to the Libyan Embassy in that country.

Asked about the report on the Libyan leader's discontentment over the closure of the illegal job placement company that sent Thai workers to Libya, the foreign minister said agencies in charge of operating job placement companies have to ensure that the companies comply with laws and regulations. The company that sent Thai workers to Libya must also bear part of the responsibility in solving the problems.

Separatists Reportedly Plan To Kill Governors

BK0611005493 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 Nov 93 p A3

[Text] A former leader of the Pattani United Liberation Organization (Pulo), the most active of the Muslim separatist groups, insists that another guerrilla faction has plans to assassinate the governors of three southernmost provinces.

Yusoh, who surrendered to authorities in 1991, said the Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN), or National Revolutionary Front, plans to murder the governors of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat.

In an interview with THE NATION, Yusoh claimed the plot really exists, and that young men of the BRN were being assigned as the killers. He said he learned of the plot from sources in Malaysia, adding that Fourth Army commander Lt Gen Kitti Rattanachaya also was aware of the plan.

Rumours of the conspiracy began circulating last month but have not been taken very seriously by authorities.

"I think that talk about assassinations were only aimed at gaining some psychological effect," Deputy Interior Minister Chamni Sakdiset said yesterday.

But another deputy interior minister, Den Tomina, was more cautious. Although he questioned how Yusoh could have learned of such a plan because as a defector he would not be trusted by active separatists, Den warned authorities not to be complacent. Den said rumours about death plots against high-ranking officials had spread since more than 30 schools in the South were burned in early August.

Today Den is due to attend a meeting in Yala province with Deputy Police Chief Pol Gen [Police General] Phot Bunyachinda and senior police officers in the five southernmost provinces of Narathiwat, Yala, Pattani, Satun, Songkhla. Den said yesterday participants at the meeting would discuss what security should be given to high-ranking officials and religious leaders.

According to Yusoh, the extremist assassins are a small group of about 10 young men who have been trained in terrorism and terrorist tactics in at least two Middle East countries. Yusoh said the military's campaign against the separatists "achieved only half" its goal because most guerillas had hidden across the border in Malaysia's Kelantan state—including key leaders such as Mah Sungai and Aliya Tohbala.

Any guerrilla who succeeded in killing one of the three governors—Pattani's Phalakon Suwannarat, Yala's Banyat Chantharasena or Narathiwat's Sawat Kritratchatanan would be promoted to commander's rank, he claimed.

"I learnt about the assassination plot when I visited my family in Kelantan. The BRN had initiated the plot by calling a secret meeting of trained terrorists and specialist gunmen," Yusoh said.

The former separatist leader added high-ranking officials in the south should be careful because there would be a major turmoil in the deep South if new violence erupted in the region.

Col Phairot Chamnong, deputy director of the Southern Border Provinces Administrative Centre, told THE NATION that soldiers were still operating against the guerrillas in the Sankalakiri mountain area and had orders to kill all separatists who refused to surrender. He said results so far were satisfactory, with many separatists killed and minor casualties among the soldiers.

Pattani Governor Phalakon Suwannarat said yesterday he was not afraid of such a death plot. "I have no weapons. If anybody wants to kill me, I surely will be killed—but I am not afraid," he told THE NATION.

An informed military source said there had been an earlier rumour that the separatist leaders had offered a Bt [baht] 50,000 reward for any guerrilla who killed a police commander and Bt30,000 for a district chief or a provincial police chief.

The military had also received a report of a plot to assassinate high-ranking officials, the source said, adding that details of the report were similar to the story given by Yusoh.

Lt Gen Kitti said yesterday that the military was continuing its crackdown on the separatists. "Operations will continue until all separatists were eliminated or surrendered," he said. He said the extremists had separated into small groups to make hiding easier. Kitti said he had asked for co-operation from the Malaysian government in suppressing the separatist movement.

Supreme Commander Woranat Aphichari said yesterday the issue of Thai-Malaysian cooperation would be discussed again at a meeting of the Joint General Border Committee in December.

Police Watching for Terror Squad

BK0911014593 Bangkok THE NATION in English 9 Nov 93 p A2

[Text] Police in the deep South have been ordered to check thoroughly all those who enter the country via the Thailand-Malaysian border—including Thais—and provide tight security for three provincial governors, senior officials said yesterday. The alert came in the wake of a rumour that 40 separatist guerillas have been assigned to assassinate the governors of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat provinces, said southern police.

But Army Commander-in-Chief Wimon Wongwanit played down the report, saying the alert was routine, and asked reporters to pay little attention to "rumours". Wimon said "confusing reports" have been emerging from the southernmost provinces.

"One word played up by the press could create big news which later could turn out to be a mere rumour," he said.

However, Defence Minister Gen Wichit Sukmak said yesterday military intelligence was warning that some 40 separatist guerillas were being sent to Thailand. Wichit said it is the duty of the concerned authorities to save people. "And the Fourth Army is serious about this responsibility."

Regarding a report that separatists in the south were provided financial support by foreign countries, Wichit said he could not identify any such sponsors abroad because it could affect bilateral relations. But "documents the authorities seized from the separatists indicate they were supported by some foreigners."

Quoting officials at southern police headquarters, DAILY NEWS said yesterday that Hayi Sama-ae, unit commander of the Pattani United Liberation Organization's (Pulo's) new wing, led by Arong Moo-leng, had called a meeting of some 40 trained guerillas in Malaysia's Kelantan State on Nov 3. Following the meeting, Pulo sent the guerrillas into the three southernmost provinces on sabotage missions.

Police headquarters assigned all officers to keep a close watch on foreigners and Thais entering Thailand from Malaysia.

The province's police chief, Pol Col Sunthon Norarat, said his rangers have been put on alert and are ready for any terrorist action.

Yusoh Pakistan, the former Pulo leader who surrendered to Thai authorities, repeatedly said his former subordinates had told him that about 35 to 40 professional killers had been sent into Thailand to murder the three governors.

Yusoh said he does not know who provided the financial support to the Kasdan wing, which broke away from the Pulo. However, he believes Kasdan received no financial support from Middle Eastern countries because they stopped providing funds to the separatists a long time ago.

Lamri Mamah, Narathiwat's Democrat MP, said rumours of a plot to kill the three governors were released by the "old power clique" which wants to damage the government's reputation.

The southern economy, especially the Growth Triangle project, has been seriously affected by the rumour. Violence has driven away would-be investors, said the MP. More than 10 border rangers yesterday morning clashed with guerillas of the Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN) or National Revolutionary Front. One ranger was injured in the incident, the leader of the squad told The Nation yesterday.

Sgt Sompon Laksanarat said his squad fought with the BRN guerillas in Kaok Chang village of Than To district, Yala province. Ranger Bunsong Phongsakun was shot in the left arm. Sompon added he believed those guerrillas had already crossed over to Malaysia.

Army rangers and separatists have clashed more than 10 times since a major crackdown operation was launched in the wake of terrorist violence in August. So far the rangers have uncovered 10 BRN bases in Sukhirin district of Narathiwat province, Muang Yala district, Bannang Sata district, Raman district and Thanto district of Yala province, said Pichai.

Recording Firms Pleased With IPR Crackdown

BK0911020593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Nov 93 p 21

[Text] Representatives of recording companies say they are satisfied with the Government's crackdown on copyright violations that is said to have brought audio and video tape piracy down to 7% for Thai works and 30% for foreign productions. The figures were supplied by the Thai Tape Producers' Association and the foreign International Federation of Phonographic Industries [IFPI] at a meeting with 15 private sector and state agencies to discuss intellectual property right [IPR] enforcement.

The reductions in piracy are described as substantial, compared with the estimated 99% of tapes that were said to be illegal before the crack down began in April.

Deputy Commerce Minister Churin Laksanawisit said after chairing the meeting that the IFPI, which represents the licencees of foreign music, and the Thai Tape Producers' Association gave the latest piracy figures.

The IFPI reported that sales volume increased 40-50% after April, the month when the Government seriously enforced the copyright law in order to avoid trade retaliation from the United States which accused Thailand of illegally copying its works.

Mr Churin said the private sector expressed worry about a new method of distributing illegal audio and video tapes through mail orders. The Intellectual Property Department has been told to crack down on such violations. The Internal Trade Department said the price of copyright tapes had increased since the crackdowns began.

The Economic Crime Investigation Division said moves against violations of trademark, copyright and patents in the first 10 months of this year totalled 2,308 cases involving the seizure of a total of 799,546 items Intellectual Property Department director-general Suchai Chaowisit said the department has hired Chulalongkon University to draft four laws on intellectual property, including one to protect the design of integrated circuits, use of geographic names, origin of products and trade secrets.

Vietnam

Le Duc Anh, Entourage Depart for Beijing

BK0911053693 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] This morning, 9 November, SRV President Le Duc Anh and his wife left Hanoi for an official friendship visit to the People's Republic of China at the invitation of Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

Accompanying President Le Duc Anh on the trip are Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam; Nguyen Viet Dung, head of the Presidential Office; Dau Ngoc Xuan, minister and chairman of the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment; Vietnamese Ambassador to China Dang Nghiem Hoanh; and a number of high-ranking party and state leaders.

At 0800, a special aircraft carrying President Le Duc Anh and his entourage left Hanoi's Noi Bai International Airport. After three hours and 40 minutes in flight, President Le Duc Anh and his wife arrived in Beijing at 1240 local time.

An official ceremony will be held at the People's Great Hall in Beijing this afternoon to welcome President Le Duc Anh and his entourage.

PRC Organ of Control Delegation Visits

BK0811043793 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] A delegation of the PRC Supreme People's Organ of Control led by Mr. (Zhang Dangku), deputy head of the organ of control, recently arrived for a working tour of Vietnam.

The delegation held a working session with the Vietnamese Supreme People's Organ of Control in Hanoi on 2 November. Mr. Nguyen Van Thin, deputy head of the Vietnamese Supreme People's Organ of Control; and Mr (Zhang Dangku), deputy head of the Chinese Supreme People's Organ of Control, gave briefings on the past activities of the organs of control. The two sides also exchanged experiences on control activities to ensure the management efficiency of government administrative organs and improve the role of law enforcement agencies.

The two sides also made some proposals aimed at strengthening and consolidating the cooperative relations between the two control sectors of Vietnam and China in order to contribute to the growth of each respective country.

Vietnamese National Assembly Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu cordially received the Chinese Supreme People's Organ of Control delegation now on a visit to Vietnam. The vice chairman welcomed the working visit to Vietnam of the Chinese Supreme People's Organ of Control delegation and expressed the hope that the relations between the two control sectors of Vietnam and China would be increasingly strengthened with the exchange of experiences aimed at improving each country's control activities.

Mr. (Zhang Dangku) briefed National Assembly Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu on the exchange of views between the two countries' organs of control and expressed his hope that multifaceted cooperation between the two countries' organs of control would be further strengthened.

The delegation of the Chinese Supreme People's Organ of Control is continuing its working tour of a number of localities such as Haiphong, Ho Chi Minh city, Vung Tau, and Ba-Ria.

Chinese Trade Corporation Opens Hanoi Office

BK0911074493 Hanoi VNA in English 0608 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 9—The Liao Ning International Trade Corporation (Liao Ning ITC), headed by Liu Xian Hua, opened its representative office in Hanoi on November 8.

Present at the opening ceremony were Le Quy Nghi, representative of the Vietnamese Ministry of Trade; Li

Jiazhong, political counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Vietnam; and representatives of the concerned offices.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Zhou Zhide, deputy general director of the Liao Ning International Trade Corporation, which has 38 domestic companies and 13 oversea representative offices, expressed his desire to conduct business cooperation with Vietnamese partners.

Haiphong, China Start Goods Exchange Project

BK0811131493 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Following his order to Haiphong city to temporarily stop serving as a venue for cross-border goods forwarding services and shipment of goods in transit, the prime minister of the government has allowed the city to exchange the aforementioned services with China's Yunnan Province on an experimental basis. Pending the promulgation of official regulations governing the provision of those services, the prime minister has instructed the Ministry of Commerce to draw experiences from this pilot project in Haiphong to perfect the management system relating to the exchange of cross-border goods forwarding services and shipment of goods in transit with a third country and submit them to the prime minister.

Paper Praises Cooperative Relations With China

BK0911071793 Hanoi VNA in English 0643 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov.9—Although the two countries have different interests and policies in some respects, Vietnam and China have the same interest which is to accelerate the formation of friendly and cooperative relations and create a favourable international environment for the development of each country, says NHAN DAN in an editorial published today.

Focussing on President Le Duc Anh's official visit to the People's Republic of China at the invitation of Chinese President Jiang Zemin, the paper continues:

'This is the first official friendship visit to China of the Vietnamese head of state after President Ho Chi Minh's visit in 1959 and is the 3rd high-level meeting between Vietnam and China since the normalization of the relations between the two countries in November 1991.

'This important event further affirms the wish of the leadership and peoples of Vietnam and China for stepping up the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in the new situation on the basis of respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, mutual interest and peaceful coexistence. While carrying out the policy of diversification and multilaterlisation of our international relations, we constantly attach great importance to the development of relations with the countries in the region, especially the close neighbouring countries such as China, and together with the Chinese side strive to firmly develop Sino-Vietnamese relations in the basic and long-term interests of the two countries'.

The paper recalls several important events in the process of normalization of the Sino-Vietnamese relations in recent years and stresses:

'The Sino-Vietnamese summit meeting this time has a very important significance: the peoples of the two countries have won important achievements in the process of renovation in Vietnam and in the open-door reform in China...'.

'We firmly believe that President Le Duc Anh's official visit to China will be crowned with success, contributing to consolidating and strengthening the Sino-Vietnamese friendship and cooperation for the sake of peace, stability and development in the region and elsewhere in the world,' the paper says in conclusion.

Leaders Send National Day Greetings to Cambodia

BK0811150593 Hanoi VNA in English 1413 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 8—President Le Duc Anh, chairman of the National Assembly Nong Duc Manh and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet today extended their greetings to head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk, President of the National Assembly Chea Sim, First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Second Prime Minister Hun Sen on the 40th National Day of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The same day Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam congratulated Prince Norodom Sirivut, deputy prime minister and minister for foreign affairs and international relations.

Khmer Rouge Military Activities Condemned

BK0811145393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Khmer Rouge continues to engage in military activities against the Royal Government of Cambodia. Last week, they killed civilians and Vietnamese nationals. Here is our editor's opinion:

Innocent Cambodian civilians and Vietnamese nationals living in Cambodia continue to be victims of the Khmer Rouge. Last week, the Khmer Rouge laid a mine and destroyed a passenger bus in Siem Reap Province, killing eight people and injuring 27 others. Sergeant Meathon, who survived the incident, said the Cambodian Air Force carried wounded people to Phnom Penh for treatment but two of them died on the way.

Earlier, Khmer Rouge troops attacked the Tonle Sap Lake region where many Vietnamese nationals are living, killing four people and wounding eight others. Vietnam has officially protested against the action. In a note dated 5 November, Vietnam urgently requested the Royal Cambodian Government to take drastic measures to punish and stop the Khmer Rouge crimes at once.

These demands are legitimate. We cannot allow the Khmer Rouge to continue the killing of civilians. Since Prince Sihanouk became the king of Cambodia and the country embarked on national reconciliation and reconstruction, the Khmer Rouge has not kept their commitment to the king, which was to strictly follow national reconciliation and national reconstruction. Moreover, they continue to violate the implementation of national reconciliation.

Obviously, no one can believe in the Khmer Rouge commitment. They are desperately using violence to obtain a position in the Royal Government of Cambodia. But they are mistaken. They cannot achieve their objective by killing innocent civilians and conducting military activities to sabotage stability in the country. The correct road to have a foothold in the government is to scrupulously carry out national reconciliation and ensure peace and happiness to the people. Otherwise, the Khmer Rouge will never have a role in the Royal Government of Cambodia. At present, they are outlawed by the National Assembly and government.

Lao Supreme Assembly Delegation Begins Visit

BK0811151993 Hanoi VNA in English 1420 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 8—A high-level delegation of the Lao Supreme People's Assembly led by Saman Vi-gnaket, Politburo member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and president of the Supreme People's Assembly, arrived here this morning for an official friendship visit to Vietnam.

The Lao delegation was given a red-carpet welcome at the presidential palace by Chairman of the National Assembly [NA] Nong Duc Manh, Vice Chairmen of the NA Nguyen Ha Phan and Dang Quang Thuy, chairman of the NA's Council of Nationalities Yngong Nie-kdam, head of the NA office Vu Mao, and others.

Speaking to his guests, Chairman Nong Duc Manh welcomed the visit as a significant event, marking a new step in further promoting and tightening the special friendship and cooperation between the parties, states and especially the legislatures of the two countries.

This afternoon the Lao delegation held talks with a delegation of Vietnam's National Assembly led by Chairman Nong Duc Manh.

During the talks, the two NA leaders highly appreciated the special relationship between the two countries, which they said have constantly been consolidated and developed. They informed each other of the situation in their respective countries and exchanged views on the orientation and measures to promote the cooperation between the two National Assemblies.

Later in the day, Chairman Nong Duc Manh gave a banquet in honour of President Samane Vi-gnaket and his party, who were also given a performance by Vietnamese artists.

Tourism Cooperation Agreement Signed With Laos

BK0711094093 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Recently, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam reached an agreement on a tourism cooperation plan between the two countries for the coming year 1994.

The two countries also signed regulations on the management of tourists via the Lao Bao border checkpoint. The signing of the documents was held in Hanoi during the friendship visit to the SRV by a delegation of the Lao National Tourism Organization led by its director Phonsouk Phonsombat since early this week.

Delegates Attend French Socialist Conference

BK0911070793 Hanoi VNA in English 0620 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 9—A delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam led by Le Xuan Tung, member of the party Central Committee and deputy secretary of Hanoi's party committee, attended the 69th Extraordinary Congress of the French Socialist Party (SPF) held in Bourger, on the outskirts of Paris from Oct. 22-24.

While in Paris, the Vietnamese delegation was received by Mr. G. Furch, secretary of the SPFCC in charge of the external relations commission. Mr. Furch, on behalf of the SPF expressed his satisfaction at the achievements recorded by the party and people of Vietnam in the renovation process.

The Vietnamese delegation also had working sessions with Mrs Annie Perronet, member of the French Communist Party Central Committee and deputy head of its External Relations Commission. The delegation also visited Montreuil and a number of agricultural establishments.

Trade Minister Meets With Czech Counterpart

BK0811141793 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] A Czech Republic economic delegation led by Minister of Industry and Trade Vladimir Dlouhy paid an official visit to Vietnam recently. On 5 November, the Czech delegation held a working session with Vietnamese Trade Minister Le Van Triet.

The visit is aimed at restoring bilateral trade relations and creating conditions for Czech businessmen to study and participate in economic development programs in Vietnam under the renovation process.

Mr. Dlouhy said that the Czech Republic welcomes Vietnamese businessmen to engage in trade and business with their Czech counterparts, and that the Republic wishes to expand economic cooperation with Vietnam.

Minister Le Van Triet briefed the Czech delegation on the new Vietnamese economic policy. He expressed the hope that Vietnam and the Czech Republic will strengthen cooperation in various domains to enhance mutual interests.

National Assembly Delegates Visit Czech Republic

BK0811152393 Hanoi VNA in English 1420 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 8—A delegation of Vietnam's National Assembly led by Hoang Bich Son, head of the NA's External Relations Commission, paid an official visit to the Czech Republic from Nov. 4-6.

While there, the Vietnamese delegation held talks with a delegation of the External Relations Commission of the Czech National Assembly. The two sides informed each other of the situation in their respective countries and discussed international issues of common concern.

The Vietnamese MPs exchanged views with senior officials of relevant commissions of the Czech N.A. At the meetings, both sides expressed their desire to restore and develop the traditional and cooperative relations between the people and legislatures of Vietnam and Czech.

The Vietnamese delegation also called at a number of cultural and economic establishments in Prague.

Yen Bai Phone Exchange Built With Indian Aid

BK0811112193 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Yen Bai Province has just installed a 128-line electronic telephone exchange jointly designed and built by the cadres and workers of the Postal and Telecommunication General Corporation and Indian specialists.

The telephone exchange, armed with modern Indian-made equipment, is located in the Van Yen district of Yen Bai Province. Its fully-automated transmission system is compatible with other systems in our country and also with those of many other countries.

Comrade Dang Vu Than, head of the Post and Telegraph General Department and Comrade Ta Huu Thanh, secretary of the Yen Bai provincial party committee; representatives of the Indian Embassy, and of the people of various ethnic groups in the province were in attendance. The exchange has been integrated into the telephone network covering various other areas such as Ho Chi Minh City, Danang, Hue, and Hanoi.

In 1993, the Postal and Telecommunication General Department invested a large sum of money in various mountain provinces. In Yen Bai Province alone, the department invested 10,000 billion dong in building a 1,356-line telephone exchange for Yen Bai City. This exchange is operating effectively, which is a true pleasure for the multiethnic people in Yen Bai Province from the fruits of their renovation process and their socioeconomic development in the rural and mountain regions.

Party, State Leaders Greet Cadre's Birthday

BK0611093993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] On the afternoon of 4 November, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi paid a visit to Elder Hoang Minh Giam, member of the Presidium of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, at the latter's home on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

Th comrade general secretary warmly inquired about his health, presented a gift, and wished him good health and longevity in order to render more valuable contributions to the reconstruction and protection of the fatherland.

Also on the occasion, party adviser Pham Van Dong, Senior General Vo Nguyen Giap, and many other veteran party and state cadres visited and wished Elder Hoang Minh Giam good health. Comrade Le Quang Dao, member of the Presidium, and other comrades in the Secretariat of the Vietnam Fatherland Front also visited Elder Hoang Minh Giam and presented him with a greetings scroll to welcome his great 90th birthday as a gift from the Presidium of the front.

On 4 and 5 November, many leading cadres and representatives from the National Assembly Secretariat, Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Culture and Information, and other agencies in Hanoi, came to visit and greet Elder Hoang Minh Giam's birthday.

Elder Hoang Minh Giam is a patriotic intellect who joined the revolutionary government in the very early years and who has held many important positions through various periods, such as deputy interior minister; foreign affairs minister; National Assembly vice chairman; culture minister; and chairman of the Vietnam Union of Peace, Friendship, and Solidarity Organizations. At present, in spite of old age, he is still highly involved in activities of the Vietnam Fatherland Front.

Nguyen Duc Binh Attends Information Conference

BK0811072293 Hanoi VNA in English 0700 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 8—A conference on information in service of promoting external relations was held here from November 5-6 by the party Central Committee's Commission for Ideology and Culture. It was attended by Nguyen Duc Binh, Politburo member and secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee; Hong Ha, secretary of the party Central Committee; Nguyen Khanh, deputy prime minister; Ha Dang, party Central Committee member and head of the party Central Committee's Commission for Ideology and Culture; other party Central Committee members, ministers, vice ministers, representatives of Vietnamese and foreign language publications.

Speaking at the conference, Nguyen Duc Binh praised the efforts of various branches and localities in stepping up the information work to support the external policy of "doi moi" (renovation) of the party and the state. He called on all mass media and publishing houses nationwide to improve their products both in contents and forms to introduce the Vietnamese land and people to the world, and to broaden cultural and art exchanges.

Vo Van Kiet Visits Pleiku Construction Site

BK0811152993 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Summary] "In the afternoon of 3 November, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong paid a working visit to a construction site for the 500-kilovolt national electricity line in the Western Highland. The construction site is one of the assignments being carried out by the No. 4 Electricity Construction Company.

"Minister Hoang Duc Nghi, chairman of the State Commission for Ethnic Minorities and Mountain Region, Construction Minister Ngo Xuan Loc, Energy Minister Thai Phung Ne, and other government officials accompanied the prime minister and his deputy."

Pham Van Chau, general director of the No. 4 Electricity Construction Company, guided the prime minister and his entourage in an inspection of the Pleiku construction site. "Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong were pleased to know that most of the electricity post foundations contracted to the company had been completed. The prime minister commended the workers for their work, which will directly affect the national economic situation. He expressed the hope that they will further try to complete the project as planned with high quality." On behalf of the workers, General Director Pham Van Chau promised that they will do their best to overcome current difficulties and obstacles to satisfactorily accomplish the duty entrusted by the government.

"After that, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong visited the 500-kilovolt transformer station in Plei Ku. The transformer station was built by the Federation of Enterprises for Machine Installation and Construction of the Construction Ministry."

Phan Van Khai Speaks at Council Meeting

BK0911103793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 8 Nov 93

[From the "Press Review" program]

[Text] NHAN DAN today carries on page one the speech delivered by Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai at the recent first congress of the Vietnam Cooperatives Council [VCC].

Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai stressed the need to expand cooperation between cooperatives in the new situation, to mobilize the people's potential, and to develop the multisectoral economy. He said that we have created various favorable fundamental factors in the process of shifting to a market economy under a socialist orientation, but these factors are not consistent. The passive tendencies and the habit of relying on others, similar to what occurred in the subsidized era, have gradually been eliminated while efforts are being made to enhance economic activities. Yet, results attained in this regard are minimal. Moreover, weaknesses and negativism are still prevalent at agencies responsible for ensuring a healthy development of the market economy, eliminating internal disunity and overcoming outside intervention, strengthening the legal system and state apparatus, improving the financial and banking system, and enhancing the capability of key business establishments.

The government has realized its responsibility in this regard and has formulated policies and measures to quickly overcome them. The law on cooperatives is being formulated and the first draft will be submitted to the National Assembly for discussion in 1994. Various policies related to taxation, credits, export-import, cooperation and investment have been consistently supplemented and amended. This is aimed at creating favorable conditions for developing economic cooperation, promoting various traditional occupations, and accelerating industrial development to improve the quality of products including handicraft items.

The government will supervise ministries concerned to closely coordinate with other agencies and the VCC to effectively promote economic cooperation in various forms. The government will also provide the VCC with essential assistance to enable it to effectively carry out its work so as to satisfactorily fulfill all tasks entrusted by the congress.

Economic Committee Meets To Discuss Tasks

BK0711143393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] In Ho Chi Minh City on 1-3 November, the SRV National Assembly's Economic and Budget Committee held a conference under the direction of its chairman Mai Thuc Lan.

At the conference, members of the Economic and Budget Committee asserted our country's economic achievements in 1993 and the 1991-93 three-year period. They noted that these achievements have created an impact for further development and have effectively contained inflation.

During their meeting, members of the National Assembly's Economic and Budget Committee heard reports by the State Planning Commission, the Ministry of Finance, and the Vietnam State Bank. Many delegates raised questions on the performance of various law enforcement agencies, especially those responsible for socioeconomic, financial, and budgetary work.

The committee stressed various shortcomings and weaknessess in our economic development program at present. These include the low economic results experienced by various sectors, heavy debts, and ineffective industrialization. Although exports have increased, their results are minimal. Markets have not been appropriately expanded, capital construction experienced great losses, and thrift has not been seriously carried out. Social welfare activities have achieved fine results, yet acute difficulties are still prevalent.

Members of the committee hold that the campaign to suppress corruption and smuggling was ineffective and was fraught with obstacles. The committee welcomed efforts by sectors to increase the gross national product by 8 percent in 1994. It called for more efforts to enhance the national economic growth, optimally exploit all favorable conditions, mobilize potentials at home and abroad, continue to carry out the renovation process, and bring into full play the production capability of all economic components.

State Bank Formulates Nine 'Key Tasks'

BK0811133093 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] After resuming relations with major world monetary organizations and joining the international financial community, the Vietnam State Bank [VSB] has formulated nine key tasks to define concrete work for its affiliated agencies and to effectively use and exploit loans and credits.

Implementing the one-year economic developmenmt program signed with the International Monetary Fund, the VSB has applied policies on stabilizing interests and prices to strengthen capabilities in settling loans and credits, balancing national reserves, and containing inflation.

The VSB has signed three agreements on credits with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. It is imperative for Vietnam to facilitate international settlements of commercial banks.

To promote foreign trade relations, the VSB is considering the possibility of setting up its branches or representative offices in foreign countries.

Do Muoi Addresses Sociologists at Conference

BK0611160393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] The National Sociology and Humanity Center recently held a conference in Hanoi to study and contribute views to a draft political report to be presented at the upcoming midterm national party conference. Nearly 30 professors, high-ranking specialists, and leading cadres from various research institutes under the center attended the conference.

Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi attended the conference and personally listened to the views contributed by scientists working in different fields of sociology and humanity on the draft report.

All speakers pointed out the importance of the upcoming midterm party conference and contended that, to satisfactorily respond to the requirements of the upcoming conference, the draft report should focus on evaluating achievements and shortcomings in deploying the renovation process and implementing the resolution of the seventh party congress in the first half of the party Central Committee's term of office, draw on lessons of experience, and propose measures to overcome those areas which are still weak.

Addressing the conference, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi praised sociologists for having contributed their views to the draft report. He urged them to continue studying and presenting new ideas, particularly suggesting scientific approaches to those important national issues to be discussed at the party conference.

Bui Thien Ngo Views Social Order, Security

BK0611051293 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese Oct 93 pp 3-6

[Article by Bui Thien Ngo, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of interior: "Satisfactorily Maintain Social Order and Security"]

[Text] Given that the international and regional situations are developing in a complicated way and our country is still facing a socioeconomic crisis, the task of maintaining social order and security is of extremely great importance for our entire party, army, and people.

Social order and security is a system of social relations formed and adjusted by a set of state laws, moral norms, and fine practices and customs that a nation or people observes in its community life to ensure that all citizens live and work in an organized and disciplined manner and that no legitimate interests will be encroached upon.

The key objectives of the struggle to keep social order and security in our country are to suppress crimes, maintain public order, prevent accidents, eliminate social vices, and protect the environment to guarantee the conditions for state agencies, social organizations, and citizens to operate in a routine and peaceful manner and within the bounds of law.

Over the past years, we have sought ways to prevent the situation concerning social order and security from worsening. Nonetheless, crimes, social vices, and violations of the law have continued to develop in a serious and complicated manner. The crime rate in our country has fluctuated on a yearly basis. However, generally speaking, that crime rate tends to increase in terms of severity, extent, and organization. In 1992 there were 122 criminals out of 100,000 people. On the average, a total of 178 criminal cases were reported daily. The criminal activities in our country are rated as medium compared with a number of countries in Southeast Asia and other parts of the world. These criminal activities, however, have begun to bear a relatively complicated international character. Many kinds of new criminal activities have emerged like transnational smuggling, international money forgery, exports of women to foreign countries, highjacking, hired murder, international corruption, and so forth.

Regarding schemes and maneuvers, criminal activities are performed in a sophisticated, bold, and brazen manner with gangsters using deadly weapons to kill their victims before stripping them of their valuables or with robbers performing their criminal activities in broad daylight along the various communication networks and fiercely resisting law enforcement officers in hot pursuit. Corrupt practices have been closely linked with smuggling activities in the form of organized crimes and have caused serious damage to socioeconomic development. Recently, some private foreign organizations or companies and overseas Vietnamese residents have taken advantage of our open-door policy to conduct fraudulent or illegal business activities.

Regarding crime areas, criminal activities occur mostly in cities and towns. The number of criminal activities in the cities of Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh, Haiphong, and Danang alone has accounted for 40 percent of the total criminal cases nationwide. In recent years, taking advantage of our state's open-door policy, bad elements have stepped up their criminal activities on seas and international air routes or along the Sino-Vietnamese and Cambodian-Vietnamese border areas.

Regarding criminals, such serious crimes as robbery, theft resulting in the death of others, and extortion are committed mostly by professional gangsters, bad elements on the run, escaped prisoners, and other elements with previous convictions. More than 70 percent of the criminals are in the 18-30 age group. The number of juvenile delinquencies accounts for 8 to 10 percent of the overall annual crime rate. In recent years, due to the spread of corruption and smuggling, the number of cadres and state employees who perform criminal activities has increased.

In addition to criminal activities, social vices are also developing in a considerably complicated and serious manner, especially when it comes to prostitution, drug addiction, and gambling. Social vices (drug addiction and prostitution) occur mainly in cities, towns, and mountain areas and involve more and more sophisticated operating procedures and a considerably intricate form of organization. In the past, prostitutes used to practice their trade in public places. Now, they sell their flesh in many hotels, nightclubs, guesthouses, inns, restaurants, coffee shops, "massage" or steambath parlors, and so forth by means of a network of brothel owners, guides, and bodyguards to provide protection to prostitutes plus a profit-sharing system. The recent discovery of a number of prostitution networks in Ho Chi Minh City indicates that this social vice has taken the form of an organized crime in many provinces. As for drug addiction, it used to be in the form of smoking. Now, it takes different forms ranging from smoking and injection to oral intake. A well-defined agreement in the form of an organized crime has also been reached among illegal drug den owners, bodyguards, and drug addicts. Drug addiction is one of the venues for the spread of HIV and AIDS. Social vices constitute a painful social problem because they exert an adverse impact on human personality development and public health both at present and in the future. Furthermore, they damage the traditional moral values of our country, destroy family happiness, spoil the young generation, and serve as a source of replenishment of strength for and breed criminal activities.

Together with complicated development of crimes and other social ills, in recent years there has been an upsurge of acitivites like social disputes, court litigation, social disorder caused by groups of people, assault of public service officers, encroaching public road pavement and road area, illegal construction, breach of traffic laws, violations of regulations of fire and explosives, and so forth. These activities have developed to an alarming extent and seriously affected not only social stability and safety, but also production development and people's life, health, and property.

The complicated situation of the social order and safety in our country has its roots in many causes, some main ones of which are as follows:

—Side effects of the market-driven economy coupled with poor experience in economic and social management, and the fact that our policies and legal stipulations have been lagging behind the reality and carrying many loopholes, thus creating favorable conditions for the development of criminal, social ills, and illegal activities. The serious worsening of problems on a wide-scale national level such as unemployment especially among youths, the disparity between rich and poor sections of the society, the rampant phenomenon of poor education and illiteracy, the degradation of moral values and cultural traditions, and so forth.

— Negative influences imported from outside occasioned by our open-door policy: crimes, social ills, degrading, reactionary, and violent cultures, AIDS, and so forth. The hostile forces have been trying to take advantage of our difficulties to cause ever more serious problems in social order and safety.

—Activities of state agencies in charge of maintaining social order and safety are still uncoordinated and right-winged, especially in the tasks of handling crimes and social ills and restoring order in urban areas.

Maintenance of social order and safety, suppression of crimes, social ills, and law violation is an arduous struggle requiring persistent effort in implementing legal, economic, social, and educational measures in an uniformed manner. In the new situation, we need to fulfill the following basic tasks:

1. Develop the general strength of our political system and the revolutionary positiveness of the all-people solidarity bloc; uphold the roles of various sectors in the state mechanism in the struggle to safeguard social order and safety.

Social order and safety always have a direct and regular impact on the life of every member of the society. The protection and maintenance of social order and safety, therefore, should be an undertaking of the people, by the people, and for the people. Efforts should be exerted to build revolutionary people's movements into a security front that will prevent and suppress crimes, eliminate social ills, curb law violations, and safeguard the peaceful, healthy life for the whole people as well as for happiness of each citizen. Realities at various localities showed that once the people themselves take the responsibility of protecting social order and safety, they become the most feared power by criminals and social ills. President Ho Chi Minh once said: "When the people help us more we will win more, if they help us less we will win less, and if they help us wholeheartedly we will be completely victorious."

The people, however, can only become a genuine force with significant strength and can be developed to its peak once it is led by the party and directly managed by the state. That is the most basic and most important principle that guarantees success for the safeguard of social order and safety. Party committees should closely follow up the social order and safety situation, set up a regular reporting system and direction on measures and tasks, and attach importance to educating exemplary party cadres who strictly observe policies of the party and laws of the state.

Administrative authorities from central to local levels should uphold their role of direct regulation of the tasks of safeguarding social order and safety, developing the vanguard and assault characteristics of our public security force in their tasks of suppressing crimes, social ills, and law violations. The public security force alone, however, cannot effectively handle tasks like arresting prostitutes, demolishing "dim light" coffee stalls, raiding pornographic movie dens, removing illegally built premises, clearing encroached road and pavement, and so forth. Efforts should be exerted to clearly determine and direct proper execution of role and responsibility of each sector in the state mechanism and of the social organizations in the task of maintaining social order and safety in accordance with the directive No. 135/HDBT. We should not irresponsibly leave the tasks of suppressing crimes and social ills to the security force. The culture sector, for example, should take responsibility in fighting degrading cultural activities, harmful and immoral lifestyles; the labor, war invalids, and social welfare sector should be responsible for creating employment for young people and properly carrying out policies toward war veterans and war invalids; the education sector and mass organizations will be in charge of educating youth and teenagers, reconciliating disputes in families and neighborhoods; and so forth. The role of mass organizations, needless to say, is very important and can bring significant results if properly developed.

2. Continue to renovate socioeconomic policies so as to help tackle various "burning" social issues and maintain social order and security.

In the cause of maintaining social order and security, socioeconomic policies occupy an important position. The Seventh Party Congress pointed out that stability and comprehensive development of social life will create a solid foundation for national security. Only with steadfast national security can we have the conditions to achieve stability and carry out national development in all respects. The actual socioeconomic situation has a direct and constant impact on social order and security—an important part of national security. Correctly mapping out and scrupulously carrying out socioeconomic policies will certainly contribute to containing and reducing the crime rate, social vices, and other violations of the law. It is necessary to continue to renovate and satisfactorily implement various policies—such as the policy on creating employment, the policy on doing away with hunger and poverty, the policy on providing social welfare allowances to the underprivileged, the policy toward youths, the policy toward the mountain regions and ethnic groups, and the educational and health care policies—and to comply scrupulously with the law on land in order to tackle various "burning" issues.

3. Actively prevent and launch a resolute and constant offensive against criminals, social vices, and violations of the law.

The reality of the struggle to maintain social order and security in our country shows that we should satisfactorily implement the two aspects of work; namely, preventing crime and launching an offensive against crime, under which crime prevention is essential. As crimes and social vices are social phenomena, we should use all of society as a measure to prevent, avert, and dispel them.

Public prevention efforts will help reduce crime. They involve a wide range of activities and measures, such as socioeconomic measures, cultural and educational measures, organizational and administrative measures in the system of public prevention of crime, measures to detect and investigate crimes and to bring criminals to court for trial, and correctional and reducational measures for offenders. Crime prevention also requires us to seek ways to contain the bad consequences of those crimes already committed and trying to prevent crimes from recurring in society.

Apart from active preventive measures, we should take the initiative in resolutely launching an offensive against crime and social vices. In compliance the Political Bureau's Directive 15, the prime minister's Decisions 01 and 114/TTG on intensifying the struggle against corruption and smuggling, and government Resolutions 05 and 06 on fighting prostitution and drug addiction, the People's Police Force should, under all circumstances, persistently maintain its determination to fight and launch drastic and constant crackdowns on crime of all sorts—ranging from felony crimes to economic crimes—with emphasis on fighting corruption, smuggling, armed robbery, theft gangs, prostitution, and drug addiction. This is to create momentum for vigorously developing the mass movement to participate actively in preventing and fighting crimes and social vices and maintaining stability and public order and security. We should satisfactorily achieve cooperation with the international crime-suppression police (Interpol) and various police organs in our neighboring countries in tracking down, handling, and extraditing international criminals.

The process of launching an offensive against crime is also the process of ensuring a satisfactory combination between crime suppression and the building of forces; between severe penalties and leniency in accordance with President Ho Chi Minh's thoughts. In launching an offensive against crime, we should concentrate our efforts on punishing ring leaders, such as robbery gang leaders, aggressive hooligans, corrupt officials, smugglers, and major swindlers. We should, however, be lenient with those criminals who surrender, repent, or do good deeds to atone for their crimes.

4. Continue to renovate the policy toward inmates and improve the quality of the task of reeducating and correcting inmates under various forms, trying to help them reintegrate into social communities promptly.

The policy to reeducate and correct criminals is an important part of our party and state social policy. As for those prison inmates, we should give them humanitarian treatment, allowing them to enjoy the rights they are still entitled to, especially human rights. Apart from having prison inmates strictly comply with the stipulations of the law on enforcement of prison sentences, we must "reeducate" them through efforts to provide them with vocational training or education and send them to perform productive labor. We must allow them to meet their families or relatives, and organize cultural and art activities for them. The state should socialize [xax hooij hoas] the task of reeducating prison inmates, work out a national program to provide vocational training to prison inmates, and recommend employment for them after they are released from jail. This program will be funded by the state. As an immediate task, we should provide prison inmates with a level-one general education program.

Education programs to rebuild delinquents require uniform efforts and a high sense of responsibility from all sectors and levels as well as from the delinquents families of society as a whole. These are indispensable conditions for the implementation of the reeducation programs that help turn delinquents into honest citizens.

5. Establishment of national programs and expansion of international relations in prevention and suppression of crime and social ills.

To resolve the issue of crime and social ills, the state needs to set up national programs for suppression of crime and social ills that clearly stipulate policy, orientations, and measures. Budgets allocated to these programs should be appropriately adequate. Being key social programs against crime and social ills, they should aim at the most basic goal of gradual reduction, and then to the elimination of crimes and social ills out of society, in order to ensure economic, cultural, and ideological stability and development.

Suppression of crime and social ills has become a global issue of modern times and is quite serious in some countries. The United Nations and other international organizations have launched programs to fight crime, narcotics, and social ills at the global and regional level. There is a need for us to expand our international relations in this field, and exchange experiences with the suppression of crime and social ills with foreign countries, especially our neighbors.

6. Building a clean and steadfast People's Police Force capable of fulfilling its assault duty on the social order and safety protection fronts.

In the struggle to safeguard social order and safety, the People's Police is the core assault force. In order to heighten its efficiency in crime suppression—especially in the suppression of corruption, smuggling, and social ills—the People's Police Force needs to continually renovate its methods and techniques, be persistent in mass mobilization, and coordinate closely with other sectors and social organizations in preventing and suppressing crimes. The force also needs to continue renovating the content and methodology of its administrative management activities related to social order and safety.

Just like the other forces in the people's public security sector, the People's Police is simultaneously an armed combat force, a political military corps, and a law protection and enforcement body. It has to deal with, regularly and directly, daily order and safety in municipalities, hamlets, and even in families where the interests of each individual as well as society as a whole are affected. Members of the People's Police Force, therefore, should strive continually to heighten their revolutionary character and moral values, enhance their combat ability, and determinedly fight negativity within their agency. They should also be determined to eliminate members who are degenerate, decomposed, or corrupt, or who oppress people or smuggle. At the same time, they should praise and reward those cadres and combatants who are honest, courageous, and devoted to their public undertakings. The force members should be persistent in their effort to improve their ability and knowledge in politics, professionalism, law, science and technology, and martial arts. More material facilities and equipment, modern weapons, and technology must be provided to the force to upgrade its combat ability in the new situation. Better care of and improvement in material and cultural life should be given to cadres and combatants in the People's Police Force, especially to those who are directly working in the front against crime, corruption, smuggling, and social ills.

For the sake of stability and development of our country, and based on its glorious traditions, the Vietnam People's Police Force should be consolidated to become truly clean and steadfast, worthy of a core force, and an assault corps in the forefront of safeguarding social order and safety.

Vo Van Kiet Presents Medals to Veterans

BK0811104793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] In Ban Me Thuot on 7 November, the Dac Lac Province People's Committee held a solemn ceremony to confer orders bestowed by the state on several local cadres.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, on behalf of the state president, confered the Ho Chi Minh Order on Comrade Nguyen Tan Huyen alias Bay Huyen, former secretary of Dac Lac party committee; the Independence Order, First Class, on Huynh Van Can, secretary of Dac Lac party committee; and Independence Order, Second Class, on Comrades To Tan Tai alias Tan Dung, deputy secretary of Dac Lac party committee; Le Tri Phuoc alias Ho Mien, former secretary of Dac Lac party committee; A Ma Pui, member of the Central Committee and deputy secretary of the provincial party committee; and Nguyen Van Cao alias Nam Son, former member of the provincial party committee.

At the ceremony, Comrade Nguyen Tan Huyen, on behalf of the recipients, expressed gratitude to the party and government for this honor. He pledged that all recipients will maintain their maximum efforts to contribute to the cause of national reconstruction.

Prime Minister Approves Watershed Projects

BK0611103593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] The prime minister on 2 November signed Decisions Nos. 526, 528, and 529 to approve three proposals to grow watershed forests at Bai Thuong Dam, Chu River in Thanh Hoa; at Cau River in Bac Thai; and at (Serepoc) River in Dac Lac and Lam Dong Provinces.

The total area of the forests to be grown will be over 320,000 hectares, in which the area for essential watershed forests is 236,000 hectares. The purposes of these projects are to increase the greenery covering the forest and the capacity to counter erosion, generate river flow, and contribute to protecting water conservancy and hydroelectricity projects in the regions as well as the balance between the ecosystem and the environment. The projects will also help halt the bad practices of slash and burn cultivation and disorderly exploitation of forestry products, assist the people in settling on their cultivated land and in their residences thus gradually improving the living standards of the minority ethnic people while educating them on new habits in cultivation and forest protection.

The costs of these projects, apart from the annual budget share for localities from the central government, will be covered by various sources. The timeline for implementing these projects will be eight years starting in 1993.

Donor Conference on Vietnam Opens in Paris

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For reportage on the internatioanl donors confernce on Vietnam which opened in Paris on 9 November, including pledges by international lending insstitutions, see the International Affairs section of the 9 November and subsequent issues of the WEST EUROPE Daily Report.

Australia

Keating Consults Business Leaders Before APEC

BK0711122593 Hong Kong AFP in English 0537 GMT 7 Nov 93

[By Jack Taylor]

[Text] Sydney, Nov 7 (AFP)—Prime Minister Paul Keating has consulted 16 of Australia's most influential corporate leaders on what Australia should be putting to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group summit in Seattle later this month. Nobody knows more than they do about the barriers to trade and investment among the 15 APEC nations, Keating believes.

He had already met most of the 15 national leaders, discussed it with them and knows the support or otherwise he can expect from them—ranging in degrees of enthusiasm from countries like the United States, Japan and Indonesia to opposition from Malaysia.

Ultimately, he wants the meaning of the APEC acronym changed to Asia Pacific Economic Community as the basis of a regional free-trade zone with almost half the world's production, three of its stongest economies and two billion customers. If he can achieve it, he will also have achieved for Australia a stunning, diplomatic coup of world class dimensions.

More than that he believes he will also have secured a place on the sunny uplands because for Australia APEC is not only the main highway to the region, it is the route to future economic prosperity.

If the Uruguay Round of global trade talks should fail by its December 15 deadline, then APEC will assume even greater importance as a counter-balance to an increasingly protectionist Europe and to the embryonic North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). NAFTA is seen here more as another discriminatory trade bloc than the "free trade agreement" its title suggests, although its two key members, the United States and Canada are also members of APEC.

Since winning his first election as prime minister on March 13, Keating has travelled tens of thousands of kilometres in pursuit of his grand vision for APEC which for him is well ahead of lesser goals like the Australian republic. Among other countries, he has met leaders in New Zealand, Indonesia, Japan, China, Korea, the United States and Indonesia.

At the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Cyprus he met other APEC leaders including Singapore's Goh Chok Tong.

While expressing support for the Keating plan Goh cautioned that a number of ASEAN nations were less than comfortable with the pace Austalia was proposing for an economic community.

In Jakarta a few days later, Indonesia's President Suharto also counselled patience while giving solid support to the initiative. As a result, Keating's rhetoric and that of his government may have softened somewhat in recent days, but their enthusiasm has not dimmed.

But in an effort to ease anxieties, Foreign Minister Gareth Evans told foreign correspondents here APEC could not for the foreseeable future be an Asian version of the European Community with its highly integrated economies and mass of common legislation.

"The Asia Pacific region is much too diffuse, much too varied in the economies and cultures that make it up for it to be sensible to even begin to talk in these terms," he added. Rather, Australia wants to move the APEC process forward as a key trade policy body, securing an ever-greater degree of co-operation and an ever greater degree of interdependence between its economies.

There would also be an ever greater degree of trade facilitation through reducing barriers and inhibitions to trade which he said still exist.

Senator Concludes Unofficial Visit to Taiwan

BK0711135093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1100 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] The federal trade minister, Peter Cook, is hopeful of a favorable response to request for an extra 1,000 tons of Australia's quota for apple exports to Taiwan. Senator Cook has concluded an unofficial visit to Taiwan where he held talks with ministers and the president on improved Australian access to local markets. On the issue of increased apple export, Senator Cook says he gained the impression that a favorable response is possible and the government will put its case strongly in the coming months. He also expects sympathetic consideration will be given to request for lower tariffs on imports of high quality beef and the entrance of Australian cars into the Taiwan market.

New Evidence of Strengthening Economic Recovery

BK0711125993 Hong Kong AFP in English 0628 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Sydney, Nov 7 (AFP)—New evidence that Australia's economic recovery is gaining strength was provided by a major survey of Australian manufacturers released Sunday. The survey showed increasing and broadly based economic optimism on the heels of increased production in the three months to September 30.

Growth is expected in 11 of the 12 manufacturing sectors in the lead-up to the Christmas holiday at the end of the December, according to the quarterly survey by the Australian Chamber of Manufacturers (ACM). The survey, of 565 companies, found there had been increased production in 10 sectors in the September quarter. The results reinforced findings that economic recovery was becoming more broadly based and gaining strength, ACM national chief executive Allan Handberg said in a statement.

Prime Minister Paul Keating last week said a "substantial" economic recovery was under way in Australia, while economic forecaster Syntec said Australia's recovery would be boosted by prolonged upturn in the United States.

"The industry outlook for the December quarter is most encouraging," the ACM survey report said. "The survey found a sizeable rise in the proportion of firms anticipating growth (45 percent) and a marked reduction in the share expecting contraction (eight percent). While this optimism is in part accounted for by seasonal influences in the lead-up to Christmas, it also reflects an expectation that both domestic and export demand may improve further over the December quarter."

It found 40 percent expected improved sales, almost 20 percent predicted a rise in exports and almost 25 percent forecast new capital expenditure to rise.

The chemicals, petroleum and coal products sector held the most positive view of the future with two out of three companies anticipating a production rise in the pre-Christmas period and none expecting a decline. However, the increased production is not expected to have a significant impact on jobs because most companies expected employment to remain steady during the December quarter.

New Zealand

Bolger To Meet Alliance Leader; Markets Recover

BK0911060693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] New Zealand's financial markets have made a recovery following sharp falls yesterday in the wake of Saturday's inconclusive general election. The share market has regained ground after yesterday's 6 percent fall as a result of a generally positive overnight reaction from international investors.

By midday, the New Zealand Stock Exchange's Top Forty Index was up 50 points to just under 2,100, and the dollar was trading at 54.44 U.S. cents—fractionally lower than yesterday's close.

Although the counting of absentee votes is continuing, there has been no indication of a change in the status of the parties, with the ruling Nationals holding 49 seats; the Labor Party, 46; and two small independent parties, a total of four.

Prime Minister Jim Bolger will make his first move toward forming a minority government on Thursday when he holds talks with Jim Anderton, leader of the Alliance Party, which on present counting holds two seats. At present, the Nationals and the Alliance will together have 51 seats, giving Mr. Bolger a majority of one in the 99-member parliament after providing a speaker.

Solomon Islands

Minister on Lack of Payments to UN, Commonwealth

BK0711095693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0900 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] The Solomon Islands' foreign minister, Francis Saemala, says his country has not been paying its contribution to the United Nations and the Commonwealth. Mr. Saemala was speaking on his return to Honiara from a month-long tour which included addressing the UN General Assembly in New York, joining Prime Minister Billy Hilly at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Cyprus, and visiting Taiwan.

He said Solomon Islands owed more than $400,000 to the Commonwealth and the United Nations. However, the foreign minister pointed out that while the government respected the two organizations, it was having difficulty in meeting its financial commitments to them because of the falling value of the Solomon Islands' dollar.